

dads! One afternoon," he continued, "I set up a volleyball game between two gangs, and when they found out how good I was, they both wanted me on their team." Then, pausing, he said, "But the real payoff came when I least expected it. My daughter asked me one day if I knew a kid named Enrique at the continuation school. I said sure, we play volleyball and joke around together. 'Well,' my daughter said, 'his girlfriend goes to my school and she says Enrique told her that you are his best friend.' I was so startled by her comment I didn't know what to say, but it suddenly dawned on me that maybe I was making the difference I really wanted." As he headed toward his squad car he looked back and with a wink said, "Changing jobs is one of the best things I've ever done."

☼ COOL COP IN HOT WATER

"One of my first calls as a police officer," a twenty-year veteran said, "was to respond to the crime of 'road hockey' in progress in a cul-de-sac. I was fresh out of training and ready to take on the world. In what I thought was a smooth move, I blocked off the cul-de-sac so no other traffic could flow through, turned on the red and blue flashing lights and marched up to the kids. I was in full uniform," he laughed, "and I could see the kids shaking in fear as I approached.

"I have a complaint that you are using the road for hockey,' I said, noticing the kids were nervous. 'There are two ways to go on this. I can shut you down so you don't get run over, or I leave my car where it is and we play. Got an extra stick?' We played for forty-five minutes. During that time we talked about drugs, the law, and the cool things that cops get to do. I was feeling pretty good about myself that day—I made a whole bunch of friends and I was pretty

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positive that I had really made a difference in a few lives." Hesitating, he said, "However, my bubble burst the next day when my boss hauled me into his office. Apparently, the person who complained about this road hockey game also made an official complaint against me for neglect of duty. My pleas went nowhere with my boss or the complaining citizen—they didn't understand that it was more important to make a connection than trot out the provincial traffic act."

⊗ BEAT THE HEAT

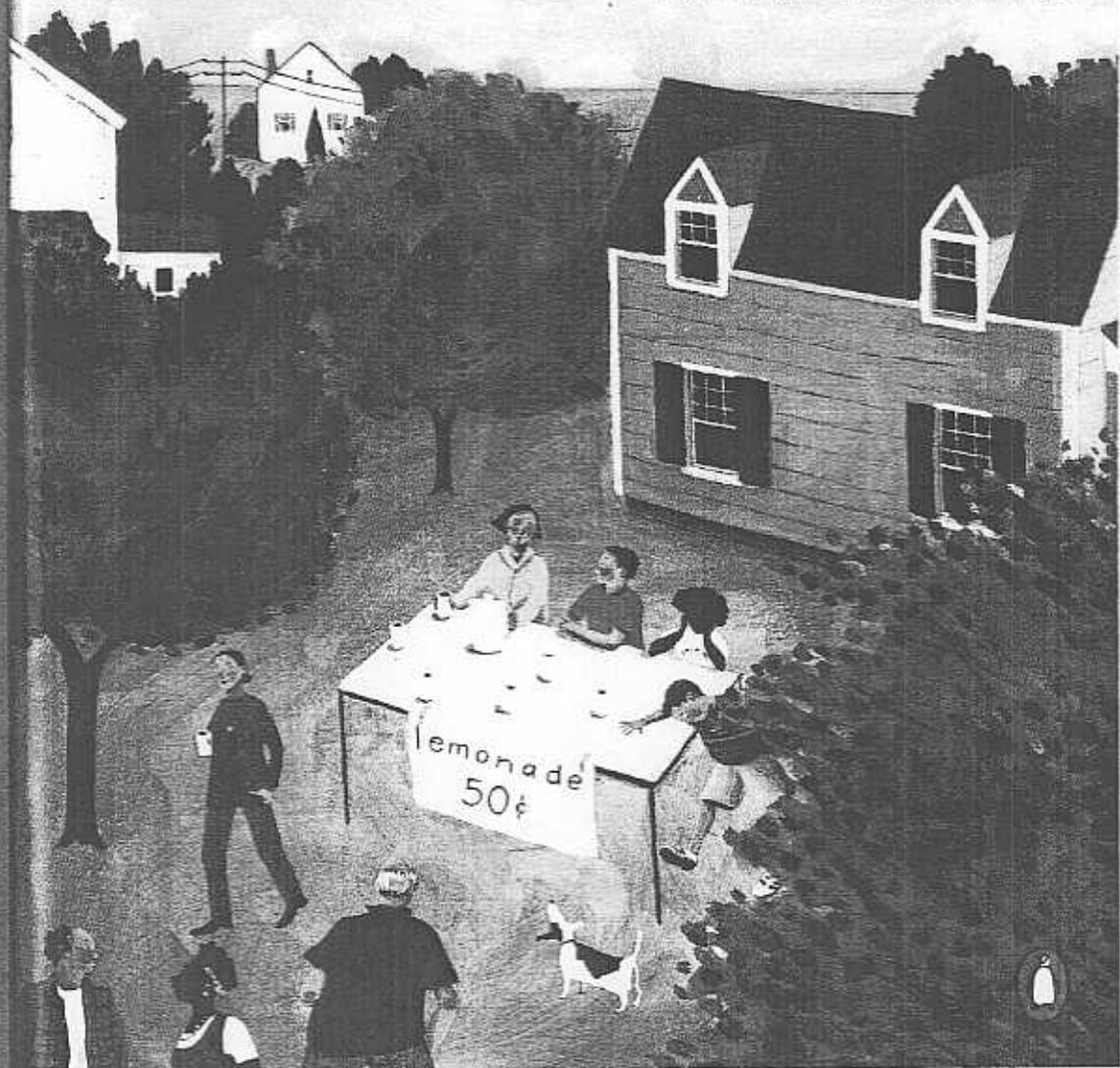
"Cruising on weekends happens in almost every community across the country," a Southern California policeman said. "And inevitably, where there is drinking and car racing, somebody gets hurt or killed.

"We wanted to come up with something creative that still allowed the kids a way to hang out and cruise, but in a safe way," he continued. "So, in a dramatic move, we invited the kids to race at the local racetrack on weekends where they can even challenge a cop to a race. On weekends for the past three years," he continued, "hoods are up, and we compare engines, talk shop, and build relationships. Above all, safety is stressed, but they can challenge us to a race if they want. They usually win," he said with a smile.

How to Create a Culture That Cares for Kids

STOPPING AT EVERY LEMONADE STAND

James Vollbracht



*Creative strategies and heartwarming anecdotes
that teach us how to heal our communities*

Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand
is based on common sense, research, and the following facts:

- Our children and youth are in crisis
- Their situation is a symptom of a deeper problem: we no longer feel connected to our communities
- By re forging the powerful bonds that used to connect us, we can begin to restore our neighborhoods and communities
- We all benefit when we create a positive environment for our kids
 - We possess the resources to do the job
 - Everyone can have an impact
 - We can begin right now

In *Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand*, James Vollbracht offers a blueprint for transforming our unstable and disconnected culture into a healthier, supportive one. Vollbracht bases his approach on six overlapping circles of community—our personal circle, families, neighborhoods, larger communities, business worlds, and elders—and outlines simple actions within each circle that will help rescue our kids. He shows us that the power and responsibility to heal our communities rest in our own hands.

"Please pay attention to this book. It logically, and profoundly, reminds us that each of us can protect and nourish our most important resource, our children."

—Steve Vannoy, author of *The Ten Greatest Gifts I Give My Children*

"Anyone who needs a boost of energy to renew their commitment to kids needs to read this book."

—Peter L. Benson,
author of *All Our Kids Are Our Kids*



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Road Hockey in Progress? Asset Builder to the Rescue!

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Excerpted from an article by Inspector Ward Clapham, Operating Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Nanaimo, BC, published in the January 2000 issue of Island Parent Magazine