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I have a sign at my desk that props against my computer. I see it everyday, but I am usually distracted when I sit down for 2.5 seconds to read an email (sound familiar?) so rarely do I find myself actually comprehending the words on it. Today, however, as I sat down to write this month's column, it caught my attention. I read it a loud, as I sometimes do when I need to process something important. It reads, "What would you do if you knew you could not fail?"

Now, I don't know about you, but sometimes I daydream about what I would or could do while at a stoplight, pumping gas or checking out at the store. Many of us are fortunate enough have the opportunity to maintain life with food on the table, gas in our car, and some type of shelter, and although all of these things are very much blessing, for many of us, maintaining has become a way of life. Granted, it is a vital component to existing and having a happy, healthy family life, and for that I am grateful, but sometimes I do stop and think to myself, "What would you do if you knew your could not fail?"

I always tell myself that I would do a lot.

Run a marathon?  
Maybe.

Have an amazing garden that I could cook fresh from its ingredients?  
Yeah, for sure!

Travel more?  
Sign me up!

Then it dawned on me, there should be two parts to life: the maintaining aspect and the sparkle. To maintain this life, there will always be bills to pay, laundry to do and so on, but that should not be the only thing I think about. The zest, the sparkle, the extra seasoning, the sizzle on the steak...well, that would have to come from me making the choice to push beyond maintaining and actually try some of the things on my bucket list. Heck, why should it matter if I fail or not? The important thing is that I tried, right?

I recently had the opportunity to talk with someone who just celebrated his 95th birthday. While chatting with him, I asked him what he thought was the secret to a happy life based on his near 100 years of experience. His first comment made me chuckle, he stated, "Happy wife, happy life." Smart man, I thought to myself. The second bit of advice was more profound. He said, "Life is not the year you were born or the year you die. Life is the dash in between those two dates." As I

drove home, it occurred to me trying, failing, not failing...whatever the outcome...it does not matter because no matter what, there will always be learning. The point is to try, push past the “just maintaining” mind set and live in the dash!

In the spirit of the New Year, I count my blessings. I am grateful for my home, children, health, my husband’s job, my work, and living in our wonderful country. I do, however, have some work to do to make sure my dash - you know the one between the two big dates – is significant. I hope you join me to in identifying those things and giving them a try in this year.

Big, small, medium - no matter what the size of the goal, it is worth working toward it. Visit Mommy Magic’s Fan Page on Facebook and post and share with other moms what it is you want to try this year. As moms, we should support, encourage and cheer each other to be the best we can be and seek out ways to live in the dash!

Blessings to you and your family and Happy New Year!