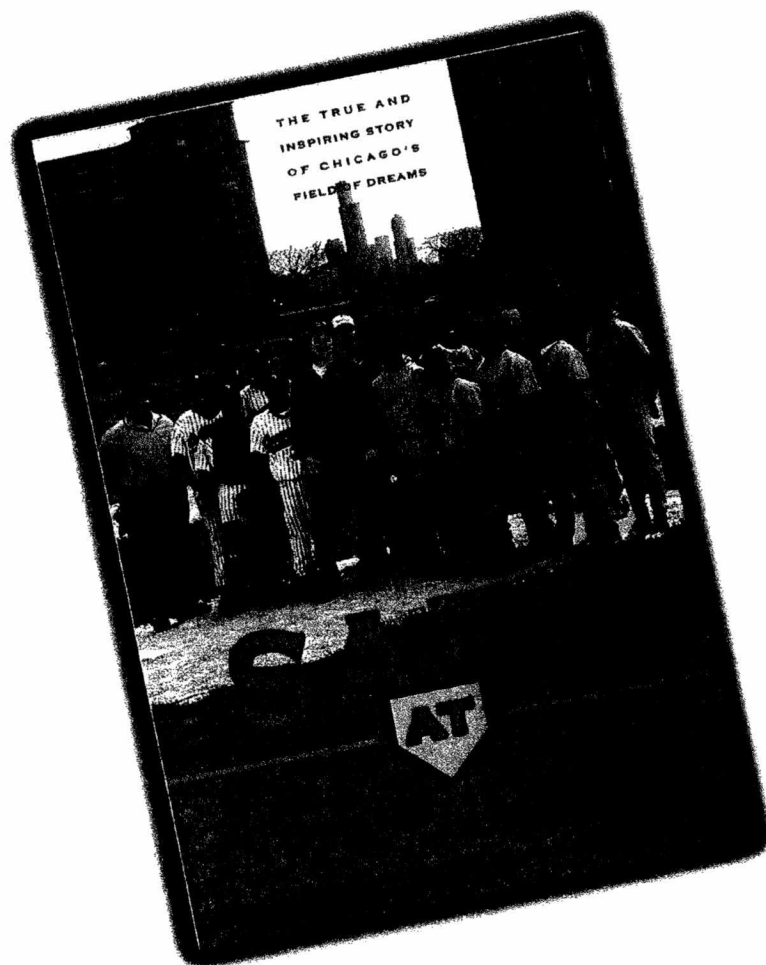


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To countless people who passed them every day, they were just derelict ballfields in Chicago's toughest neighborhoods. To one man, they were inner-city fields of dreams. Starting with a simple vision and the faith to carry it through, he and a grassroots team of volunteers built three urban Little League programs that have made a life-changing difference for hundreds of at-risk kids, won the heart of their city, and gained national acclaim.

Ivy League background and stellar business career notwithstanding, Bob Muzikowski is no savior from the suburbs. He grew up on the New Jersey sidewalks, and his own past is no pretty picture. But it's as much a part of what drives his ministry as his passion for baseball and his determination to invest his life where it counts. In *Safe at Home*, Muzikowski talks frankly about his humble beginnings, his accomplishments in sports, college, and business, his struggle with addiction, the impact of his Christian faith, and the vision and cost of developing a Little League program that would show urban kids how fun, love, and commitment work together to make dreams come true.

But this is far more than just the story of one man whom the *New York Times* once called "the Johnny Appleseed of inner-city Little League baseball." It is also the story of volunteers from all walks of life—neighborhood adults, corporate executives, recovering drug addicts, ex-offenders, and political figures, all

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giving their time and energy and getting more in return than they ever imagined. It is the story of a violent world of gangs and gunfire, where drugs, prostitution, and child abuse abound, and where boys Bob has coached turn up in the obituary column. And it is the compelling account of a Little League organization that has sparked scholarship programs, community programs, and college educations and professional careers for kids who otherwise would have been lost to drugs and crime.

"There is no one big, magic solution to the complex issues facing urban communities today," says Muzikowski. "But there are five hundred or five thousand little solutions that can add up." *Safe at Home* is a powerful testimony to what can happen when any man or woman decides to become one such solution.

BOB MUZIKOWSKI has an outstanding, twelve-year track record of committed, cutting-edge Christian ministry that has earned him and his work widespread acclaim and respect. He lives on the West Side of Chicago with his wife and six children. This is his first book.

GREGG LEWIS, a freelance writer with a long history in the publishing industry, is the award-winning author or coauthor of more than forty books, including *Tom Landry: An Autobiography* and *The Big Picture* with Dr. Ben Carson. He lives in Rome, Georgia.

THE TRUE AND
INSPIRING STORY
OF CHICAGO'S
FIELD OF DREAMS



SAFE AT HOME

BOB MUZIKOWSKI WITH GREGG LEWIS