

# About STOYAC

Way back in the year 1963, two local residents saw the need for organized sports here in the Town of Stoughton. Those two individuals, local businessmen Henry Rodgers and Al DiStefano, got the idea to organize a football program for the children of Stoughton. With a little help from some friends, they formed a team and joined a local South Shore youth program known as South Shore Midget Football and thus started the program now known as STOYAC (Stoughton Youth Athletic Club). Today, the football and cheerleading program has its own facility on Washington Street and is a member of the national program known as Pop Warner Little Scholars. Our program now provides this activity for approximately 300 boys and girls ages 7 through 15.

Shortly after the football program was established, and as the program grew, Henry and Al needed assistance. They solicited the help of two more local residents and friends to assist them in their efforts. Tommy Herron, the Stoughton Post Master, and "Tuck" Twomey, the Stoughton High School Athletic Director and the well-know head football coach of Stoughton High School's most powerful teams, were added as directors.

After several years of growth, a Stoughton Chronicle article appeared which was headlined "600 Stoughton Youths in Court". Although certainly an attention getter, the "court" as referenced in the article was actually the Stoughton High School basketball court. Thus the start of STOYAC's largest program which today services approximately 700 boys and girls during the winter months.

After several more years it was decided that something was needed for the girls in town to fill the time between the end of basketball season and the start of the football season in August. As a result, two additional residents were asked to step up and create the STOYAC girls softball program. Louise Packard and Bob Kowalsky were added as Directors and they took up the challenge and started the program that today offers its services and instruction to approximately 250 girls each spring, through the close of the school year in June.

Today, almost 50 years later, STOYAC is still a private organization operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Government. All Board members and coaches are volunteers in service to the community. Additionally, it has long been the policy of STOYAC to require CORI background verifications of all volunteers prior to their being permitted to coach in our organization.

As outlined above, STOYAC is basically the football and cheerleading, softball, and basketball organization for the youth of Stoughton. In today's difficult financial climate, organizations such as STOYAC are even more important in helping to provide the opportunities for kids to develop socially, athletically, and emotionally and to learn the value of teamwork and good sportsmanship throughout their childhood and into high school and beyond.

Should you require any additional information concerning our program, you can contact any of the Officers of the STOYAC Board of Directors, or the Individual Program Directors at their email address through this site.