

# Power in Partnership: Charge Compassion & Collaboration in Action



In its effort to keep kids active and improving both basketball and life skills during the pandemic, 3Ball Academy was displaced multiple times from indoor and outdoor facilities. Looking for a more permanent situation ultimately led them to a concrete pad in San Luis Obispo, which was available for lease yet far from ideal.

"When I saw the court, I saw the potential," said 3Ball Academy founder Mike Wozniak. "It was a traditional high school regulation court, 84 by 50, with nice glass backboards and breakaway rims. Everything, you would expect to see in an indoor gym."

Unfortunately, there was not enough room for all kids in the program to play as frequently as they'd like, especially once Daylight Savings Time ended. That's when the basketball family stepped in. One of the player's parents approached another parent with ties to the construction industry, Billy Kilmer, Jr., the COO at Charge, to see if he could help solve the lighting issue. Billy thought, "we can do more" and galvanized an effort to transform the space.

"To come in and say, 'Wow, we could expand here. We could do this. We can cut down this tree' and then complete the project in a matter of a week – the expediency of it all was mesmerizing," added Wozniak.

The project involved removing trees and foliage located just inches from the court. Fencing was added to keep basketballs from traveling outside the court. Crews also installed six tall solar lights, 350 feet of LED string

lights, wind block, an outdoor music system and six glass backboards with adjustable hoops that lower to 7.5 ft for the younger players. Parents spent an entire Sunday installing the baskets; one dad even welded coat racks and ball racks with excess construction material.

One of the most memorable moments was when the American flag was added to the top of one of the hoops.



Several companies put in their time and resources in order to make this happen:

JTS Trees, Dean's Electrical Services, Papich Construction Co., Inc., San Joaquin Refining, Fence Factory – Santa Maria, and Snyder & Sons Landscapes. Hubble Real Estate and Gladiator Paintball Park also contributed with financial donations.



There were a lot of obstacles in making this happen so quickly, but thinking of the greater good for the kids was a huge motivator for everyone to keep going and think creatively about how to work together to accomplish this.

**Thank you to Jaime Perez, Octavio Soto and crews for demo and cleanup, John Sims and crew for coordination with fence and paving, and Mario Peña and crew (above) for paving and concrete touch ups. You are a true reflection of our values.**