



#### PALM KEY EXPANSION PLAN

During the Lt. Dan Weekend, the therapeutic benefits of bringing such a large number of severely injured veterans and caregivers together in the serene setting of Palm Key were evident to all.

“It was so nice to be around others who are like me,” said one veteran attendee.

Now the Independence Fund is working on the goal of establishing a Wellness Center that will be available year round for these heroes, and not solely for the week of LDW. The plans have been drawn up for thirty-nine individual marsh front cottages (thirty-nine being the number of triple amputees from the war) that will be available for use at no cost to qualifying veterans. The Independence Fund plans to make these units available to not just military veterans, but to the many journalists, contractors or other government employees who served in the conflict zone and who may suffer from many of the same physical or emotional after effects as their military counterparts do.



The Independence Fund is an all volunteer, 501(c)3 organization run entirely by combat veterans. The Independence Fund has no paid staff or expenses for office space or overhead. The fund is a lean operation that strives to direct every dollar it can towards the mission of providing the tools, therapies and guidance to those veterans severely injured in the War on Terror that they otherwise may not be receiving..

In the little more than four years that the Independence Fund has been in existence it has raised and distributed more than \$1.75 million towards the mission. Nearly \$400,000 of this amount has gone towards high end wheelchairs. To make the vision of the Independence Wellness Center a reality we need your support.

THE INDEPENDENCE FUND  
 P.O. BOX 1171, BEAUFORT, SC 29901  
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# THE INDEPENDENCE WELLNESS CENTER

A PLACE OF HEALING



#### HEALING HEROES

Our concept is simple. We believe that the best, and most cost effective way to address the long-term physical and emotional wounds of the the men and women who have fought in the Global War on Terrorism is to empower them to help themselves. These men and women are part of “The Greatest Generation” of the 21st Century. Provide them with the tools and they are capable of great things.

# Be a Part of it!

## A PLACE TO BE

With more than 150 veteran and caregivers attending last year's Lt. Dan Weekend, (LDW) the challenge was finding an adequate place for them to stay. That's when it became clear that there was a higher power than ourselves at work because that is when we received a call from the caretakers at Palm Key who offered up their facility for the entire group for the five days they were in town.



## THE LT. DAN WEEKEND

It started in 2010 when well known entertainer and supporter of the troops, Gary Sinise, agreed to come to the Lowcountry and perform a benefit concert for the Independence Fund at Beaufort's Waterfront Park. That was the actors first return visit since filming the beloved classic *Forrest Gump* here in 1994. Since then, the Lt. Dan Weekend has become an annual event drawing veterans, and those who wish to show their support for them, from all across the country.

Last year LDW demonstrated that it is more than just a concert, it is a community celebration honoring the men and women who have served



their country and paid a heavy price. In addition to the concert, the Independence Fund arranged for the donation of a 500lb. steel beam from the World Trade Center building that collapsed on Sept. 11th, 2001. That piece of steel is now on permanent display at the Parris Island Museum where it is seen by every recruit before they graduate and earn the title, Marine. LDW incorporated a 5K through historic downtown Beaufort, and a bike ride aboard the Marine Corps Air Station as well.

All this served a very real purpose as well in that more than \$400,000 was raised in cash and in-kind donations. That was enough not only to fund the event but it left more than \$100,000 which was applied to the Independence Fund's core mission of providing the tools, guidance and therapies that those veterans severely injured in the War on Terror might otherwise not be receiving.

## BE A SPONSOR

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BRONZE STAR	**	5,000
MERITORIOUS	*	—