“You are the ones that have encouraged me to do what I have done as good as I knew how. You have helped me to do more listening than telling. You have helped me see the beauty that lies in each of you... and for that I thank you.”

~ ANNE WALL
October 15, 1925 – September 17, 2020
Many of you are likely aware that I am the second generation of FIDA/pcH. The original charter of FIDA was formed in 1980. However, it was not until September 1984, when my parents, Jack and Anne Wall, moved to Haiti that its mandate was activated. We, as her children, could not conceive of how our mother, at the age of 60, would manage life in that country. Further, that she would emerge with such incredible determination and faith. There is so much to be said about this woman, who had very little formal education. Wall’s International Guest House was, and remains, a testament to her remarkable grit. My parents returned to Canada permanently when they were 75 years old. However, they visited Haiti from time to time, one occasion being the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. My mother spoke the following words to the 200 or so Haitians that were in attendance:

“I am thankful for having had the opportunity and privilege for getting to know you in a small way. I count it a great blessing in my life and I wish to thank you for that from the bottom of my heart. You are the ones that have encouraged me to do what I have done as good as I knew how. You have helped me to do more listening than telling. You have helped me see the beauty that lies in each of you. It is you that have helped me to grow and for that I wish to thank you. Yes, you helped me to not lose hope and faith in each other. And now, I wish to encourage you to never give up but keep moving on and never lose sight of your hopes and goals. For God gives us all strength for each new day and life is full of gladness and sadness. But He who rules the universe never fails to guide us. So let us continue to work together, be strong and move on.”

My mother passed away this past September. While the service was small and simple due to tighter COVID restrictions, hundreds of people were present by livestream. I make no apology for this newsletter focus on her and her family. Within each of us children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, we carry a part of her within us. May we come to fully honour this great legacy of listening, encouraging, and never losing sight of our purpose. In this way I am so grateful to have my sister and my daughter now join me in this work we have been called to do.

We invite you to donate to the continuation of this woman’s remarkable legacy in Haiti by going to www.fida-pch.org.
"I am Anne Wall. At about 7:30 am on Thursday, September 17, 2020, I left my earthly home. I was just shy of celebrating my 95th birthday and 70 years of marriage to Jack Wall. The last thing I remember is you kissing me, Jack. I know you loved me as I have loved you.

On one hand, I lived much longer than I would have imagined and on the other hand, I often wondered where the time went. I was given opportunities to do things in this world that, at times, seemed beyond my reach but God has a way of giving strength when it is needed. I was born in St. Anne, Manitoba, shortly after my parents emigrated to Canada from the Ukraine. Most of my life was shaped by work although I did manage a few years of schooling. It was my marriage to Jack that turned my world upside down. It began with being a housemother to a cottage full of mismanaged boys in Smithville, Ohio. This was pretty much a career defining moment as we then volunteered to be house parents at Ailsa Craig Boys Farm (now Craigwood Youth Services) in 1954. I had two children by then, Betsy and Frank. I lost my third child, David, shortly after childbirth. My grief seemed to know no end until I was approached to care for two abused infant children. God knew my heart needed this kind of healing. We then opened a home for girls in Parkhill followed by establishing a therapeutic family model under the banner of Ausable Springs Ranch. I cannot say these were easy years, but it was what I committed to doing. And so, I did. I had three more children, all girls, Ruth, Linda, and Alice, the last two predeceased me.

So, that takes up the first half of my life. My second half began when Jack and I agreed to move to Haiti. Jack wanted to see what we could do to help the “poorest of the poor” by introducing an agricultural cooperative model and my daughter, Ruth (who lived in Haiti at the time) suggested I could run a guest house. Thus, was born, Wall’s International Guest House. Much to my surprise, this was a role I was born for! I loved meeting all the people who came from all over the world. I learned much about what caring and helping really means in a country such as Haiti. I also had many times of inspiration as well as loneliness. I began to write and write and write. These are things I leave my children, my grandchildren, and great grandchildren: You were born with purpose. Live it and live it fully. It is not likely to turn out the way you thought it would! To my dear husband, Jack, you gave me the life you promised when you proposed, as turbulent and marvellous as the Niagara Glen rapids. I could not have asked for more. It was the best education ever. It may take you some time to realize that I am no longer physically by your side, but I am with you as I always promised to be.”
A couple of months ago, Dr. Joey, the lead doctor of the pcH medical team, said to me, “Betsy, do you know that the pcH clinic model is different than any other clinic in Haiti?” I asked him to explain. Here is what he said:

1. pcH employs participatory methodology wherein the pcH health team continually interacts and collaborates with health agents and matrons in the area and from whom they receive training to better equip them to assist members of their community and with patient follow up.

2. The pcH approach is to first identify the root problem by engaging members of the community and encouraging them to present what solutions they see. When the Fon Batis clinic was established a year ago this July, the amount of patients that suffered from typhoid was very alarming. The pcH medical team and technical staff identified the water that the people were drinking was the main source of the disease in the region. We began education on water treatment and its affect on their health, through small seminars in the morning while patients were waiting to be seen. In one year, we have observed over 50% reduction in patients with typhoid. Small seminars will now be presented to the elementary and secondary schools in the region.

3. There are many cases when the pcH medical team must make house visits to patients with emergencies who are unable to come to the clinic. One pcH doctor along with a pcH nurse accompanies the relative of the patient to their home with a medical kit to take blood samples in case a lab exam is necessary. A health agent is then assigned to the patient for daily observation and follow up.

4. In cases where patients with certain conditions are beyond our ability to serve and are in need of surgery and/or hospitalization, the pcH medical team not only transfers the patient to the most appropriate hospital but remains in direct contact with the hospital and its Medical Director to ensure that the patient is receiving the best of care.

5. The Fon Batis Clinic was launched as a cooperative-based health services pilot. The concept is to offer an annual health “insurance” fee for up to a family of seven with the aim for the participating members to not only be able to support their own health services but to be profitable. While only in its second year, the concept is considered innovative and
revolutionary in meeting the health care needs of rural Haiti. The terms of the policy were developed with the participation of cooperative leaders. This “experiment” now includes five other areas where there has been cooperative formation.

6. The truly innovative component that sets the pcH model apart from other clinics is the extensive use of **telemedicine technology**. This technology allows the pcH medical team to monitor patients at home. The patient is given a tablet with an application that allows the health team to video conference with the patient including the ability to take the patient’s vital signs. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine has emerged as a significant practice to help monitor and assist patients who are in confinement or in remote areas. This model of health care is not only innovative, but also efficient and applicable throughout Haiti.
It worked. It went exactly as my father had intended…. that my first trip to Haiti at the impressionable age of 12 would be impactful and shape the course of my life. The third of four (living) children, I was the sensitive quiet one, feeling deeply but talking little. I returned from that first trip, marching into my small town school with a jar in hand, labeled “Haiti Fund” proceeding to solicit “donations” for children with TB. In the late 60's my father was inspired to spearhead a nationwide vaccination program called “Crusade Against Tuberculosis” and the eventual establishment of International Child Care.

I had found my place in life. I went from collecting coins in a mason jar to being a Girl Friday at Grace Children's Hospital between college semesters, to serving as a cultural liaison and translator for International Child Care. I was in my element! I launched a small business supporting Haitian artisans (which I continue to do) while raising three young children in Bangkok and Taichung returning to the USA in 1999.

And now here I am… accepting the position of Executive Director for FIDA USA. I had the pleasure of participating with former director, Patrick Bentrott, in his superb Hike for Haiti. I am grateful for his efforts in laying the groundwork for FIDA USA and look forward to taking it to the next level.

Haiti and her people are part of the fabric of my being. I feel it every time I am there and long after I have left. How privileged I was to host the Premier Equipment Ltd. tour along with my sister, Betsy, this past March, just as COVID-19 hit the world. The mission of our parents, Jack and Anne Wall, so faithfully and earnestly begun in 1986, to invest in the poor to be able to provide for themselves, is a worthy endeavour that has impacted thousands of families. The work of FIDA/pcH as well as Wall’s International Guest House, founded by my mother, continues to serve as a testament to what can be accomplished where there is purpose and vision.

I am humbled by the lessons learned from the proud and resilient people of a nation that is forever at the receiving end of endless political and economic repression, natural disasters and help that seems to keep them forever helpless. It is in this spirit that I join my sister in carrying forward the legacy of our parents. I look forward to engaging with you and inspiring you with stories of men and women who have been given the opportunity to rise above adversity.
NEW ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM TO LAUNCH IN FON BATIS

The FIDA/pcH 2021 Adult literacy program is in Fon Batis, the site of the very first literacy pilot undertaken in 2001-2003. Viewed as “risky but innovative” the pilot was funded by the then-known Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In the FIDA/pcH model, literacy is offered as a benefit to invested shareholders of a cooperative. It is a choice by members to participate. To our astonishment, when we introduced literacy, membership in cooperatives tripled! The 7 cooperatives are now at various levels of functioning representing approximately 3000 members, many of whom joined following 2003 and not had the benefit of literacy. In some cases, husbands who declined literacy on the basis of ego, have seen the transformation of their wives and now express an interest in participating.

Current registration for Literacy 2021 is 1,561 (577 Men/984 Women). In Year One, only two of three levels will be offered; 1,231 participants (476 Men/793 Women) have been pre-tested for Level I; 296 participants (105 Men/191 Women) have been pre-tested for Level II. The cooperatives will select 75 locations to serve as the educational “centres”.

The objective of the program is to strengthen the capacity of women and men farmers to enable greater trust, confidence and self-awareness for the greater benefit of families and the community. Over a three year period, the curriculum, offered in Kreyòl, covers the knowledge and application of:

- oral and written communication
- essential concepts in mathematics and sciences
- skills related to the environment and its protection
- business management and skills to generate income
- respecting rights of others and civic responsibility
- transmitting learned values exercising good decision-making

To contribute to the transformation of these men and women, go to www.fida-pch.org.
COVID-19 brings opportunity to reach rural areas

The Mobile Clinic Extension was launched at the time COVID-19 was at its peak in Haiti. The pandemic left rural communities without health resources as missions left or were forced to close. Due to the generous support of a private donor, this service was made possible. In the first months, the pcH medical team was receiving 40-60 patients a day but as word spread of the high quality of services offered particularly with respect to the laboratory, pharmacy, access to ultrasound and EKG equipment and tele-health technological support/diagnosis, up to 200 patients can be found waiting each day, many of the sick enduring treacherous two hour drives on a moto through mountains, some arriving the day before to be treated. These patients express deep gratitude not only for the quality of health services but for the care and respect they receive at the hands of the professional team.