



## Molly Blank

**Job title:** philanthropist

**Residence:** Laguna Woods

**Age:** "65+"

**Salary:** unpaid

**Describe your work:** Every Friday morning, I work with some of the patients at South County Senior Services. They're either Alzheimer's patients or have other problems. We do art therapy. Twice a year we have an exhibit. We work with clay and ceramics. They can take their things home, which gives them tremendous satisfaction. This is done at the Sylvester Center in a special room called the Molly Blank Arts and Crafts Room. Patients are brought there from the clinic. Afterward, I go to the clinic to have Sabbath services for the Jewish patients because we know they can't get to their services. We have holly, a tablecloth and candlesticks. It becomes very real for them. I also serve as a director on the South County Committee, which involves half a dozen agencies. I'm very involved with City of Hope in Duarte. There's a Molly Blank Pediatric Clinic there. I'm very interested in children. It's amazing so many people are unaware how many children have cancer and deadly diseases. I just came back from Denver. I was there to break ground for the Molly Blank Resource Center for Learning, for doctors to come from all over the world to study respiratory methods.

**What do you like most about what you do?** I have a philosophy: You pass through once: Make it count. It's the name of a book I've written. If you try to help whenever you can as you pass through a day, what else is there?

**What's the biggest challenge?** My life has been so challenging that all of this is really not a challenge. I am happy to be able at this point in my life to give back whatever I can.

**How many hours a week do you put in?** I really have little time I call my own because I'm so involved. If I make a commitment, I do everything I can to keep it. I can't even answer that question.

**What's your background?** I was president of a large pharmaceutical company (Sherry Pharmaceuticals) on the East Coast. We serviced throughout the world. My company was acquired by a conglomerate. That's what brought me to California. When I contracted asthma, I became very involved in various organizations.

**Any advice for someone interested in volunteer work?** I would tell them two things: Volunteer in an area of personal interest to you and give it your best shot.