



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.