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Philanthropist wonders what a lot of charities actually do

As one of the few individuals in the charity world who can say that she has put a great deal into innumerable good causes – in terms of time and money – and taken nothing out, **Gina Miller**, the boss of **Miller Philanthropy**, sets a shining example.

Four years after she launched her organisation with her husband **Alan**, the original “Mr Hedge Fund” who made £30million in the City, she wonders if some of the biggest charities in the land aren’t losing their *raison d’être*.

“There are too many careerists involved now,” says Gina. “The bosses of a number of charities I can think of are not necessarily passionate about them, but switch casually from

charity to charity. Virtue is not seen as its own reward – big salaries and honours seem to be what drives them. Public relations is also an obsession – many



Gina Miller says that all too often virtue is no longer its own reward in the world of charity

charities have big media teams to ‘get the message out,’ but it often seems to be about aggrandisement. More and more consultants and advisers are getting involved, all taking money out. You look at some charities and you ask ‘what

do they actually do?’ Before you give to them, ask if they have people who actually go out and get involved with helping others. Or do they just have big offices, layer upon layer of admin staff, and just a tiny handful of volunteers on a switchboard who listlessly direct callers in urgent need to websites?”

Gina, who has, with Alan, been a contributor to the Lady Thatcher infirmary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and many smaller charities, says her organisation always does its “due diligence” before donating. It has a pro-bono directory, the Goodwill Exchange, of experts, individuals and companies who give their skills and services for free.