



INsight

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind, Jerusalem

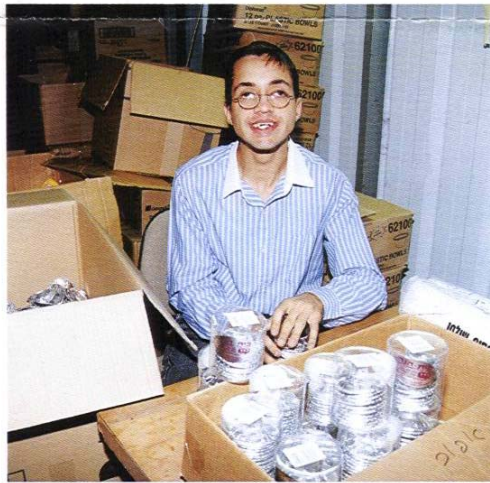
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Bridge to Israeli Society

According to World Health Organization reports, it is hoped that blindness will be eradicated in the next two decades, and in Israel amazing developments have been made in the treatment of eye disease. The Institute is in the midst of far-reaching educational and rehabilitational changes in order to adapt to this positive development. Even today, young sight-impaired people are integrated into regular or special education classrooms whenever possible, and JIB students often have a myriad of problems in addition to sight.

Unlike other schools in which education is the primary goal, the Institute accompanies their students one step farther. As students leave the sheltered environment of the Institute for independence, they have always been assisted. Now, however, this will be done as part of the school's educational program and agenda.

At present, students spend extra years under the tutelage of the JIB as the Special Education Law permits an integrative



Although Yossi has been deaf, dumb and blind since infancy, he is today packing and sorting at a work-study program in a Jerusalem factory



Michael's volunteering is well appreciated at Jerusalem's Sha'are Zedek Hospital and helps him make the transition to independent living

program of study until the age of 21. According to high school principal Rachel Skrobish, a new transitional project at the Institute will be structured for students from 18-21 years of age.

"As part of our educational goals, we see the need to help establish young adults in apartments and help integrate them into the work force," explains Skrobish. "This year we have inaugurated a transitional program and each of the students are being helped individually according to their abilities and needs." One student has continued studying full-time, another is volunteering a year of national service at Sha'are Zedek Hospital and has been accepted as a dedicated member of the staff.

Yossi, who is blind as well as deaf and dumb has been placed in a factory work-study program where he has a

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