



# INSight

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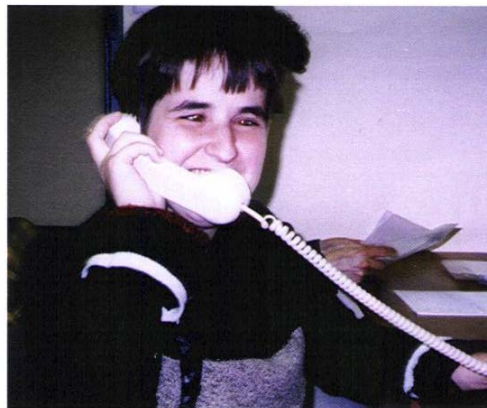
## Education for Life — Employment Skills as an Educational Tool

"In many schools, education is the primary goal, but we accompany our students one step further into the work force," explains Jewish Institute for the Blind guidance counselor Menucha Trop. As Israeli law today has extended the age of special education until 21 years of age, the Institute offers each student an individually tailored program that suits his or her needs and skills.

"The Institute places students in employment frameworks through the organization of Elwyn which helps everyone develop work skills so they can find their niche in society," explains Trop. "We have students working in varied positions



*Joseph is today a familiar figure at a Jerusalem café*



*Vika has developed secretarial skills in her employment training program at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem*

such as a popular neighborhood café or even at Hadassah Hospital. Those that need a more sheltered environment are absorbed at the Rehabilitation Center of the Institute."

On a recent visit to see the students at work at Hadassah Hospital, we were impressed by Vika who has mastered secretarial skills. She has earned additional responsibilities such as taking phone messages and filing. Eitan, who also works in the hospital program, helps to prepare sterile packages for use in all departments. He is slowly mastering the skills of patience and perseverance that he will need to succeed in this job as well as any other future endeavor.

The Hadassah Hospital Elwyn co-ordinator Sarah Noach is very pleased with the developments made by Institute students during their training period in the hospital. "The students are developing good work habits, learning manners and they are facing different situations," she says. "It is important to take orders and learn new tasks while getting along well with their co-workers," she explains

*(continued on page 4)*