



OFEK LIYLADENU

Summer Jobs for Youngsters with Visual Impairments

Ofek Liyladenu - Israel National Association
of Parents of Children with Visual
Impairments

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Employment on the Horizon

The Need:

- Only 26% of adults with visual impairments are employed.
- Opportunity for early exposure to work environment during the formative years.
- Target populations: teens 14-19 with visual impairments.



Employment on the Horizon Program Goals:

- Positive experience of employment.
- To improve self-esteem and independence.
- To improve belief of parents in their child's capabilities.
- Accessible work environment.





Employment on the Horizon Program Goals:

- To equip teens with a toolbox of relevant skills.
- To raise employers' awareness to employability of people with visual impairments.
- To become a center of knowledge for youngsters and professionals.





Employment on the Horizon Program components

- Comprehensive approach: training and practical work experience.





Employment on the Horizon Program components:

- Cooperation with business partners as employers.
- Close monitoring and support by the program team.





Employment on the Horizon Program components:

- Closing event to celebrate success and achievements.
- Annual evaluation and modifications.





Employment on the Horizon 2018 Program

- 85 teens **interviewed** (11 blind).
- 65 in **training** (7 blind).
- 57 **employed** in 31 places of employment.
- 26 in clerical work, 4 telemarketing, 8 customer service, 7 summer camps, and other places.





Employment on the Horizon Testimonies:

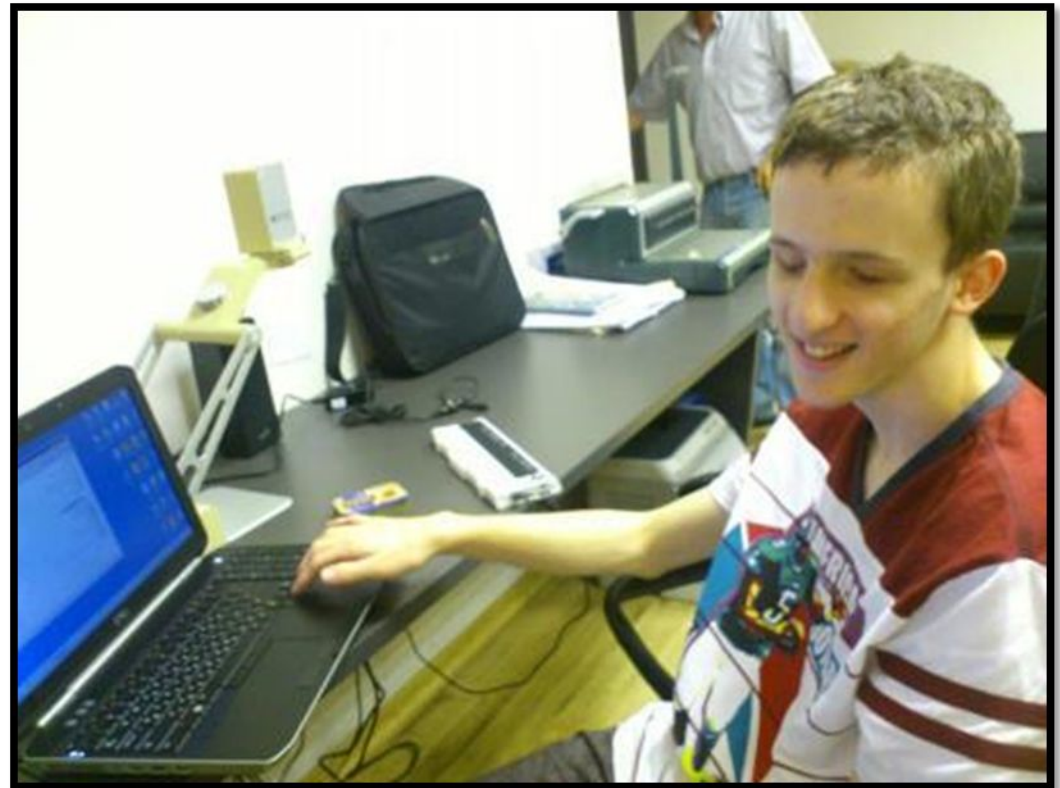
“The work gave me a sense of independence, that I am an adult, a grown up, getting up every morning and going to work was awesome”.





Employment on the Horizon Testimonies:

“I felt what real life is and it was such fun to work and earn money by myself”.





Employment on the Horizon Testimonies:

Mother of a teen: “My son woke up happy and willingly every day, he was busy with his work at the bank, they trusted him and gave him many tasks and responsibilities which made him feel proud and a sense of achievement. I watched him progress and contribute, and it made me proud and happy to see him happy and contented.”



Employment on the Horizon Testimonies:

Employer: "I have such a great satisfaction from my involvement in the program!! It allowed Eden to accomplish her dream. I will always be happy to accept workers with special needs and integrate them in employment. To me, they are equal and they have the same rights as all of us."





Employment on the Horizon Research

2008

The research found that the program accomplished the goals it had set for all groups involved; employers, parents and the youth. The program strengthened the self confidence of the youth, gave them concrete work skills, improved their self esteem and raised awareness of employers and co-workers to the world of the blind and visually impaired.

2018

93.5% of the program participants between the years 2002-2011 (aged today 25-40) believe that work experience as teen is essential for a successful employment as adult.

71.7% indicated that participation in the program enhanced their self-esteem and independence.



Employment on the Horizon

