



Originally an impulsive spender, Isabelle Weiner has saved enough to take trips to Colorado, California and, recently, Texas, where a sister lives.

cook for an army or not at all." She gave an example: "I visited a man in his group home once and he offered me iced tea. Well, I waited and waited and finally I went into the kitchen to see what took so long. He was in there making six gallons of it because that's the only amount he ever made living with 14 other clients." She shook her head, adding, "The system is designed to perpetuate itself."

Kendrick, the normalization project director in Massachusetts, said that the real problem is attitude.

"Now there's a trend toward reinstitutionalization," he said, "because people thought the institution was the problem and not the attitudes that created it. Just getting the people out has not solved the problem."

Kendrick and other normalization advocates insist that the best hope for their clients is to meet people in the community.

They cite evidence that isolation of the mentally handicapped increases the chances of reinstitutionalization. Kendrick looked to the community rather than staff members.

"Bureaucrats control these people's lives because no one else does. Until the community shares responsibility for what happens in the lives of the mentally handicapped, then the infantilizing of clients will continue."

*(This is the third in a series of five articles. Tomorrow: Melita Diaz.)*