

*Just the beginning of success*



On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, Caritas Jerusalem in cooperation with Palestine Ahliya University's special education center in Bethlehem celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of the specialized professional diploma in the special education in attendance of Dr. Awni Al Khatib, the University Vice President, Dr. Sami Basha, President Assistant for Planning and Development, Mr. Imad Al Zeer, President Assistant for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Mr. Jeries Abu Ghanam, the Director of the Public Relations Department, Fr. Raed Abusahlia, the General Director of Caritas Jerusalem, Mr. Adam Sadownik, First Counsellor Development Cooperation Department and other local organizations as well as the families and friends of the graduating students



Mrs. Lana Zoughbi, spoke on behalf of the graduating students and stressed that it is our responsibility to take care and defend the rights of people with disabilities, “During the training course, we have discussed several issues concerning our work, we exchanged our experiences, learnt and helped each other in solving our daily struggles” Said Zoughbi

In his speech, Dr. Sami Basha, expressed his joy of holding the 4<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony, “It is not the end, it is only the beginning of a new phase in your lives where you will be able to change the lives of our people with disabilities” Said Basha



Whereas Fr. Raed Abusahlia, the General Director of Caritas Jerusalem mentioned that this program is co-financed by the Polish Development Cooperation Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and Caritas Poland, “The aim of this program is to increase the capacity of the staff who work with people with

disabilities and also to improve their academic knowledge.” Said Fr. Raed



The graduation ceremony came into its conclusion by giving the graduates the certificates.



Finally, Dr. Awni Khatib, the University Vice President who has welcomed the guests and thanked Caritas Jerusalem and Caritas Poland for supporting this program; he pointed out to the importance of education and the role of the graduating students in changing the image of people with disabilities. “The civilization of a society can be measured by how much it serves the marginalized especially people with disabilities” Said Dr. Khatib

