



Historical Background

Rawdat El-Zuhur was founded by Elizabeth Nasir in 1952 as a home for destitute girls. She had been moved by the sight of two little girls begging on the streets on a cold and wet day in February, and was determined to put an end to the phenomenon of begging as a means of earning a living. She gave shelter to such girls and provided them with some basic skills in order to help them earn an honorable living and regain their dignity in the society.

The home started with 25 girls, and with the support of friends Elizabeth started a program which focused basically on literacy, hygiene, home making, sewing, embroidery, religious education, folk dancing and singing.

Having felt that she had contributed a lot to the elimination of the begging phenomenon, she turned around to comply with the request of the families of those girls for formal education. That need was further stressed in the wake of the Israeli occupation in 1967 when all the government schools fell under Israeli control, and there was need for Palestinian educational institutions. By 1971 Rawdat El-Zuhur became a complete elementary school. The kindergarten was added at a later stage in 1979. The total number of children is 250, which is the maximum number the school can handle, and the number of graduates is around 650 students.



With gratitude and appreciation.

While celebrating the 50th anniversary of Rawdat El-Zuhur we wish also to celebrate the blessing of a wonderful and generous group of friends; individuals, organizations and churches, who were our companions and supporters throughout those long and exciting years: fifty years of building and nurturing this pioneering educational establishment for the children of Jerusalem, in the heart of Jerusalem.

On behalf of the board and the members of Rawdat El-Zuhur, we wish to express our gratitude to those special friends who shared our vision, had confidence in our mission and love for our children. Without each and everyone of them Rawdat El-Zuhur could never have withstood the arduous trials that came its way. Those friends were, and will continue to be, the solid backbone of our school. On this occasion we also wish to express our

thanks and appreciation to:

Mrs. Salwa Zananiri, the school principal, for her dedication, wisdom and compassion, and for her great and positive role in the development of the school.

The school teachers and staff, for their cooperation and love for the children.

The parents, for their cooperation with the school administration and for appreciating the importance of a sound relationship between home and school.

The volunteers who worked with the children along the years, and shared with us their special talents.

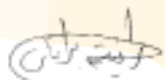
Engineer *Isaam El-Arnaout* graduate of Rawdat El-Zuhur, class of 1985, for his generous contribution for the printing of this book.

The committee of the book: *Ms. Samia Houry*, *Ms. Salwa Zananiri*, and *Ms. Tania Nasir* for seeing this project through.

Ms. Basimah Abu-Libdeh for reviewing the Arabic text.

Ms. Cedar Duaybis for reviewing the English text.

Mr. Nabil Massis for translating into Arabic a section of the book.



Ranya Baramki
President





Dedication

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Rawdat El-Zuhur, this book is dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Nasir, its founder and first president (1952-1986). Her perseverance and joie de vivre will continue to inspire us in carrying on this unique legacy.





Rawdat El Zuhur

P.O.Box: 19796, Jerusalem

Zip code: 91017

Tel: 02-6282062, Fax: 02-6287842

Email: info@rawdat.org

www.rawdat.org



