



**Caring for Cambodia**  
**Press Kit**  
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# ABOUT CARING FOR CAMBODIA

## Background

When founder Jamie Amelio first visited Cambodia in 2003, she discovered a country rich in culture, history, and beauty, but also one that had lost most of its leaders during a mass genocide that murdered almost 2 1/2 million people. Referred to as the “killing fields,” the Khmer Rouge targeted teachers and the educated, leaving future generations without mentors.

While on that first trip, a little girl asked Jamie for a dollar. Upon learning that this girl wanted the money to be educated, Jamie accompanied her to her school. What Jamie saw shocked and changed her. Caring for Cambodia (CFC) was founded later that same year. With the support of more than 8,000 financial supporters and a team of more than 600 committed volunteers, CFC now provides a world-class education to more than 6,800 children each year from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Mission

*Caring for Cambodia (CFC) is educating a generation of Cambodian children today, to make a difference for Cambodia's tomorrow. Our schools are safe, modern and technologically equipped. We train teachers, provide tools, and remove barriers to learning. We build Cambodian leadership to guide and sustain these schools so our graduates can reach their highest potential and make valuable contributions to their community.*

## Approach

Caring for Cambodia's philosophy is that only through education can change truly occur. In addition to educating the whole child and providing the supplies needed to attend school, CFC gives its students the tools for success in life after school. CFC changes the lives of its students, their families, and even the surrounding communities.

In addition to its renowned teacher training program that ensures a world-class education including life skills, CFC also provides its students with clean water, two nutritious meals a day, school uniforms, personal hygiene supplies, and bicycles in order to get to school. CFC gives village residents the necessary tools to change behaviors that contribute to disease and poverty.

For additional information:  
Visit: [www.caringforcambodia.org](http://www.caringforcambodia.org)  
Email: [bryanmorytko@caringforcambodia.org](mailto:bryanmorytko@caringforcambodia.org)



- **Removing Barriers:** CFC has programs that provide the necessary tools for children to successfully pursue education, such as uniforms, shoes, and bicycles for those who need them to get to school. We've even gone so far as to construct a new road to access three of our schools so our kids can get to class. CFC will do what it takes to get our kids to school and make sure they stay enrolled.
- **Girls Matter!:** Social attitudes toward gender are a strong contributor to inequity, as are economics. This program is breaking this cycle, encouraging and empowering female students, educating boys, resolving any gender-specific problems, and reducing girls' attrition rate.
- **UN Program:** CFC is one of just 600 Non-Governmental Agencies (NGOs) associated with the UN Department of Global Communication Civil Society Unit, working to address issues of global concern.
- **Lehigh University Partnership:** The College of Education at Lehigh University has partnered with CFC to help accomplish CFC's education quality goals in Cambodia, including the eventual handing over of operational responsibility to the local communities. Lehigh research has provided important quantitative data on the impact of CFC's programs.

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## CFC By The Numbers

- Founded in 2003 by Jamie Amelio
- 21 CFC schools
- 6,800+ students enrolled per year
- \$180 USD educates a child for an entire school year
- CFC Schools have the lowest dropout rate in Cambodia
- 240,000 meals served per month or more than 2,000,000 per year
- 20,000 toothbrushes distributed to students per year
- 109 community water wells and 9 water filtration systems installed
- 70+ bicycles distributed to students per year
- 85 former CFC students now work for the organization
- 81% of CFC teachers have or are in the process of obtaining a university degree, including primary school teachers, putting CFC ahead of the national curve, which is 27%
- CFC has awarded more than 200 scholarships to its teachers, allowing them to pursue degrees that pertain to their area of instruction or future goals

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## About CFC Programs

- **Teacher Training:** The key to a sustainable education system, CFC training methods use internationally recognized best practices and are replicable, making CFC teachers change agents who now train their Cambodian peers.
- **Early Learning:** CFC is a national leader in early learning. We provide early childhood education through 12 preschools and a kindergarten program. Our preschools lead the country in best practices and early enrollment. This early enrollment, in turn, makes it more likely young students will stay in school, achieve, and go on to graduate. Designed to support mothers and teach them skills they were not able to learn from their own families due to genocide and poverty, CFC provides children and families with resources for health, nutrition, early skills-building and more.
- **Health Education:** From lessons on oral hygiene to hand washing, small changes make a big difference. Regular, consistent health education, First Aid training, eye tests including glasses for children who need them, and dental hygiene kits with toothbrushes and toothpaste are provided.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:** Information technology, English as a Second Language from an early age, and STEM skills all prepare CFC students to work in growth sectors such as telecommunications and logistics, and make them among the most employable youth in the country.
- **Life Skills & Career Preparation:** CFC prepares students for life beyond school, expanding the Cambodian curriculum and connecting them with an opportunity to attend university or vocational training, and jobs so they may become productive members of the community.
- **Libraries:** Five primary school libraries, two junior high and two high school libraries serve 6,800+ students in grades K-12. Through group activities, book-borrowing and special programs, young learners break the cycle of illiteracy that contributes to poverty.
- **Food for Thought:** CFC provides its students with two meals per day because a hungry child cannot learn. Since this program's inception, the rate of absenteeism and dropouts has been significantly reduced.

**Continued**

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# STAYING BOTHERED



## ABOUT JAMIE AMELIO

Jamie C. Amelio is the founder and CEO of Caring for Cambodia (CFC), a non-profit, non-governmental charitable organization that has dramatically changed the lives of tens of thousands of Cambodian children. CFC started in 2003 with the goal to provide Cambodian children education by building a school in the Siem Reap area. That initial goal of one school has grown into 21 schools and 6,800+ students annually with a mission to secure a better, brighter future for so many more.

Jamie is a four-time recipient of the prestigious Golden Hand Service Award bestowed by the Cambodian government to those who give outstanding service to the Cambodian community. She received the award for Outstanding Community Leader in 2015 and the Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2011 from the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce, and was named as a 2010 Classic Woman of the Year by Traditional Home Magazine.

Jamie is no stranger to helping children, and was a dedicated volunteer long before beginning the Caring for Cambodia journey. She served on the Board of Directors of Vistas for Children in Los Angeles, and founded Junior Vistas for Children. She served on the CLASS (Community Leaders Advocating Student Success) and is a member of Leader For Life committee for Lake Travis School District. Most recently, Jamie has founded Staying Bothered, a global movement to help people find their passion, motivate them to get involved, and provide them with the tools to stay committed to effect real, positive change.

Jamie is the author of three books: *Graced With Orange*, an inspiring look at how one woman set out against difficult odds to change the education of an entire population, *Stumpy the Crocodile*, a children's book about helping neighbors in need, and her new bestseller *Staying Bothered: Find Your Passion, Commit to Action, Change the World*. She is also the orator of a TEDx Talk, *Be Bothered, Stay Bothered*, where she reveals the secret to staying motivated to make a difference.

Jamie and her husband, Bill, lived in Asia for a decade and now make their home in Austin, Texas. They have six children, including two from Cambodia, and one grandson, all of whom understand the importance of "Staying Bothered".

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## QUOTE SHEET



“All of the things we have on our education roadmap are implemented at CFC schools. CFC is the standard for education in Cambodia.”

***His Excellency Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Cambodia***

“I have seen firsthand the impact that Caring for Cambodia has had on my country. So many of our students have graduated from CFC schools and are now at university or in meaningful jobs. They have accomplished this because of Caring for Cambodia.”

***Ung Savy, Superintendent of Schools and Country Director, Caring for Cambodia***



“I love to read! I visit my school library every day to read books. I want to be a teacher when I grow up!”

***Choun Saphors, 8, CFC Student***

“We had gone with the idea that we were going to Cambodia to help the CFC kids, but we came back with more than we could have ever asked for. Service isn’t a one-way street. It impacts people on both sides.”

***Ritika Ramprasad, Student, Singapore American School, and CFC Volunteer***





## Internet Links

- Caring for Cambodia Website:  
[caringforcambodia.org](http://caringforcambodia.org)
- Financials, including Annual Reports:  
[caringforcambodia.org/financials](http://caringforcambodia.org/financials)
- Jamie Amelio TEDx Talk: Be Bothered:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=FxurzqfBHqA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxurzqfBHqA)
- CFC video: 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4Pg1VSBwrk>
- CFC YouTube channel:  
[youtube.com/channel/UCU2bnWdfqvBr5\\_SW\\_Vo5s3A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU2bnWdfqvBr5_SW_Vo5s3A)
- CFC Facebook:  
[facebook.com/caringforcambodia1](https://www.facebook.com/caringforcambodia1)
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