

# Tiny Toones Annual Report 2012



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## Tiny Toones mission

Since 2005, Tiny Toones has been engaging, inspiring and educating children and young people from the poorest neighborhoods of Phnom Penh.

The mission of Tiny Toones Cambodia is to provide a safe, positive environment for at-risk youth to channel their energy and creativity into the arts and education, empowering them to build self-confidence in their daily lives, aim for better employment possibilities, and feel supported pursuing their dreams.

## Tiny Toones kids

Tiny Toones’ students are aged 5-24 and are particularly vulnerable to drug and substance abuse, sexual and labor exploitation, domestic violence, and gang involvement. A quarter of the children at Tiny Toones report never having attended school. They all face multiple barriers to attendance and progress as a result of their difficult backgrounds, the fees involved and being compelled to generate income. From as young as five many of these children are begging or collecting cans from garbage, or working as garment workers.

Tiny Toones channels their energy and creativity into hip-hop arts and a range of education opportunities, from English and computer skills to healthy living. We provide a safe environment in which these children and young people can enjoy learning, explore their creativity and develop a positive sense of identity and community. We promote active lifestyles and positive life choices among some of the poorest children and young people in Cambodia.

For further information visit

[www.tinytoones.org](http://www.tinytoones.org).

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[www.tinytoones.org](http://www.tinytoones.org)

## Tuy Sobil (aka “KK”), Tiny Toones Founder and Creative Director

The start of 2012 feels like a long time ago. In January we were getting ready to go to Australia. We had a lot of challenges arranging visas and getting funding but – with help from our supporters and friends – it came together in the end.

We performed seven shows at Melbourne’s Chapel off Chapel theatre. The show was based on the kids’ life stories. Stories about abuse, about drugs, about trafficking. But also stories about how Tiny Toones helped them to get clean, showed them the ropes, got them back into school. We met a lot of great people who really felt the truth in it. We even stopped and restarted one time so that the Ambassador for Cambodia could see the whole thing. The kids were nervous as hell but did a great job.



It was a great chance for these kids that we love and support to experience a new country, a new culture and to perform on a big professional stage, to form friendships, socialise in English, and to feel that they are valued. We also visited Auckland in New Zealand. That trip was all about community workshops and going into schools. We shared life stories with local kids and we danced together. We got a great reception from the Khmer community and a lot of them came out to see our show and to see what young Cambodians are doing, how much talent they have.

Back in Cambodia, Tiny Toones moved to a new centre. It’s way bigger, way better and more open than before. The local people are sweet to us and support what we do. We hope we’re going to be here for a long time. Throughout the year we were coming up with new concepts. We used ideas from Tron, from Fighting Gravity, using lights and costumes so the dancers look weightless, or disappeared and reappeared, to put on some really creative shows. All new to Cambodia and we were the first.

In July we were nominated for a Beyond Sport Award and I attended the award ceremony in London. We didn’t win but there was a lot to learn about how people use sport the way we use art, how people make teams. It gave me a lot to think about because I want Tiny Toones to grow, to be better. And I think our older kids are starting to understand more about leadership. This is the challenge. If they can be better leaders, better team players, more supportive, then the new generation coming through could be so strong.

The year finished with our Christmas party. Seeing the kids happy and excited meant a lot. It was just something fun to celebrate, a chance to make the kids feel special. It’s something a lot of these kids don’t have in life and it’s really what Tiny Toones is about.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tuy Sobil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Engagement

### Reaching out to the most vulnerable children in Phnom Penh

Hip-hop is immensely popular amongst Cambodian youth. Break-dancing hooks their interest because it's part of a culture that feels young, exciting and relevant to their lives. Its appeal provides the basis for all of Tiny Toones wider work on personal development, social integration and education.

In February 2012 Tiny Toones moved to a new centre in the impoverished neighbourhood of Chba Ampov. This had long been one of the areas served by Tiny Toones outreach service and from which we collected children on our 'school run.' Back when Tiny Toones started it was always where a lot of our kids came from. Being physically located in the heart of one of the communities that most needed Tiny Toones services was a huge change and led to more children than ever before attending Tiny Toones classes.



#### Houch's story

*"Before Tiny Toones I was living on the streets, picking up drugs and taking glue... Dancing helps to stop using drugs – break-dancing is important to me and it makes me feel happy I do that instead."*

Houch was living in Battambang when he first saw Tiny Toones perform. At the age of 14 he left home for the streets of Phnom Penh, 300km away. There he sought out Tiny Toones, without who he says he would still be living on the streets, stealing and buying drugs.

He had dropped out of school at an early age and found it strange to be in a classroom at Tiny Toones. With financial and emotional support he returned to school and completed grade 8 earlier this year, aged 17. He is now studying for grade 9, dancing and helping out with Tiny Toones creative classes. He's also reconnected with his family and visited them when Tiny Toones went back to Battambang last year.

*"Tiny Toones helps kids to know what is right and what is wrong. With Tiny Toones help I am back at school."*

Tiny Toones has become a much loved part of the local community. We invited parents into the centre when we arrived to explain our programmes. This directly led to the dramatic increase in attendance as kids gained permission and support to attend. It was particularly valuable for girls from the local community as we were better able to allay concerns and emphasise the value of Tiny Toones. The proportion and number of female attendees increased with girls making up 45% of attendees in 2012 (as opposed to 40% in 2011).



Tiny Toones outreach service visited eight different communities around Phnom Penh throughout the first six months of 2012. From July onwards this service was discontinued due to lack of funding. From January to June the outreach team achieved the following:

- 156 wounds cleaned
- 549 people were taught hygiene, including washing hands and brushing teeth
- 1,031 fishkits distributed, containing soap, toothbrushes, pencils and notepads and information on HIV / AIDS and other health issues

We continue to offer tuk-tuk and van transportation to and from the center from these areas so that the kids can continue coming to Tiny Toones and enjoy the full range of creative and education classes that are on offer.



#### Key Figures for 2012

- 942 unique children and young people came to Tiny Toones center in 2012
- An average of 366 children and young people attended Tiny Toones every month
- This marked an increase of 20% on the previous year.

## Inspiration

### Fostering creativity and providing a platform for expression

Tiny Toones uses dance, music and art to engage, inspire and educate young people from some of Cambodia's most impoverished slum areas. All of our creative teachers are former students themselves. Their achievements – both as dancers and with the education they have gained – inspire the next generation.



In 2012 we provided over 100 hours of dance classes every month for children aged five and upwards. Break-dancing is physically and mentally demanding. It promotes active lifestyles, inner-strength and a sense of achievement and self-worth. The change that takes place in terms of confidence and self-esteem is visibly apparent and transformative for the children involved. These children become part of a positive, supportive community.

Tiny Toones dancers perform throughout Cambodia and beyond. A series of high profile performances over the last year have highlighted Tiny Toones excellence. In January we visited Melbourne, Australia, for seven shows at the Chapel off Chapel theatre. This was an original Tiny Toones dramatic production that told the stories of the dancers and musicians involved. In April students visited Auckland, New Zealand for a series of workshops in local schools.

A highlight back in Phnom Penh was Tiny Toones performing for two nights at Chenla Theater alongside French dance company Racine Carrees and under the guidance of choreographer Nabil Oulhadj. The performance told stories of Phnom Penh through the medium of contemporary dance, particularly break-dancing. Footage can be viewed at <http://www.tinytoones.org/videos/>.



#### Key Figures for 2012

48 students aged over 12 years old reported that since coming to Tiny Toones they considered themselves to be:

- More confident: 96% (71% said they were 'a lot more confident')
- Able to communicate better: 98% (67% said a lot)
- More motivated to learn: 96% (86% said a lot)

Our rap, DJ and visual art classes provide further fun, creative outlets. In September Tiny Toones began work on a new album of original music funded by the Prince Claus Foundation. Our music teachers and students began developing ideas for music and lyrics that would take shape over the coming months. The music classes are divided into three disciplines – DJing, production, and rapping – all of which were brought together to form the new songs. The dance and music sides of Tiny Toones were also brought together with new dance routines and choreography developed for the new songs. We premiered some of these tracks at a fundraiser at the end of September and will launch the album and a music video to go with it in early 2013.



Tiny Toones provides a platform for sharing stories through dance and music. The dancers choreograph their own routines to tell their personal stories to diverse audiences from Cambodia and beyond. They raise awareness of the challenges facing Cambodian youth and of the creativity and talent that exists. During 2012 **over 5,000 people** saw Tiny Toones perform.



#### Erak's story

*"I dropped out of school at grade 8. I wanted to study and I was always asking my parents and my sister but they could not afford it. Tiny Toones helps me and my friends. I have learnt so many things I didn't know about. They helped me to go back to school. Last year I completed grade nine and this year I will begin grade 10."*

Erak first approached Tiny Toones because he wanted to learn to dance. At Tiny Toones Erak also learnt to drive a tuk-tuk and he now earns a salary bringing other kids to the center from the slum areas of Phnom Penh. When he's not at Tiny Toones he still helps his mother to sell food on her street stall.



*"Tiny Toones is special because it serves children free of charge and provides an education for vulnerable kids. Because of Tiny Toones I have a better future and more opportunities: to go to school, to dance and to teach other kids to dance too."*

## Education

### Learning and skills at Tiny Toones

In 2012 Tiny Toones provided over 400 hours of lessons each month in:

- Khmer (the Cambodian national language) and math for grades 1-6
- English at kindergarten, basic, intermediate and advanced levels
- Computer skills covering the basics and typing as well as Microsoft packages.

While many of the children also go to public school, they all come from backgrounds of extreme poverty and are vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and being compelled to generate income. Tiny Toones offer lessons that support and further their education. The children benefit from new skills, confidence and self-esteem which enable them to achieve more and to enjoy learning.

Approximately one quarter of Tiny Toones kids do not attend school at all. Our education offer is intended to complement and support integration into the public school system wherever possible. The extension of the scholarship program in 2012 enabled us to support younger children to access primary school for the first time. 24 children, aged from 8 to 14 years old, were supported to do so, six of whom had never attended school before.

We believe that the longer a child is out of the school system the harder it is for them to return. By returning them to the school system as early as possible we greatly increase the likelihood of them developing lifelong learning skills and minimise the negative effects of long-term exclusion. We engaged the families as part of this new approach in order to set expectations and to build relationships.



### Key Figures for 2012

A survey of 170 students reported the following:

- 148 attend English class, 130 of whom felt they had improved in the subject (88%)
- 116 attend Khmer class, 97 of whom felt they had improved in the subject (84%)
- 46 attend computer class, of whom 38 felt they had improved in the subject (83%)

Our continuing 'scholars' include three high school placements and – remarkably given the background and circumstances of most Tiny Toones students – four in further education. Given the myriad barriers to educational progress that these young people face, these scholarships represent a life-changing opportunity. They gain an education that would otherwise be denied to them as well as skills that enhance their prospects, options and personal capacity.



During 2012 we also built a partnership with New Future for Children, a local center for abandoned and orphaned children. As a result our students have been able to access their advanced computer classes and new healthy activities, including soccer training. This led to an arrangement with Soccer Skills & Fitness Centre Cambodia who now provide free training from qualified coaches for our kids once a week.

In July 2012 Tiny Toones attended the Beyond Sport Awards as one of only three projects worldwide to be shortlisted for the UNICEF Sport for Education Awards. We were disappointed not to win but we were honoured to be shortlisted. At the summit we had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with like-minded organisations and individuals. In November we attended the Doha GOALS conference at the special invite of Beyond Sport for discussions on the role sport can play in supporting marginalised communities.



#### Fresh's story

*"I danced two, three years, then my Dad he passed away. And I don't know what to do with my life."*

Fresh first joined Tiny Toones in 2005 when KK used to teach break-dancing in his front room. Misfortune struck in late 2008 when Fresh's father passed away and his family were forced to sell their house. Fresh felt guilty about continuing to dance and perform with Tiny Toones. He felt selfish, knowing that his mom was working several jobs and still struggling to make enough money to keep him in school and keep food on the table.

KK convinced him to keep studying and Tiny Toones was eventually able to offer him a position as a dance teacher. Now he is teaching and inspiring the next generation and studying for a degree with a Tiny Toones scholarship. Watch 'A Fresh Start,' the film that tells his story at [www.tinytoones.org/videos](http://www.tinytoones.org/videos).

*"Here at Tiny Toones it is my second family. We work together, dance, we show love to each other and always stick together... In school, you learn how to read and write but, through dancing, KK taught me to be strong and independent."*

## Special thanks to our supporters

Tiny Toones' achievements are made possible by the backing and support of numerous organisations and individuals. We would particularly like to thank the following for their help during 2012:



**Australia Volunteers International** ([www.australiavolunteers.com](http://www.australiavolunteers.com)) supported Tiny Toones organisational development through the placement of a Management Advisor and recruitment of a Non-Formal Education Specialist for 2013.

# ENTRANCEHRMINTERIM

**Entrance** ([www.entrance.nl](http://www.entrance.nl)) sponsored Tiny Toones scholarship program. Entrance is a Dutch consultancy firm which specialises in Human Resource Management.



**The Global Fund for Children** ([www.globalfundforchildren.org](http://www.globalfundforchildren.org)) supported Tiny Toones education program in addition to supporting fundraising activities, the development of the new website and monitoring and evaluation systems.

# THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

**The McKnight Foundation** ([www.mcknight.org](http://www.mcknight.org)) supported Tiny Toones creative and education programs in addition to supporting organisational development and infrastructure improvements.



Prince Claus Fund for  
Culture and Development

**The Prince Claus Fund** ([www.princeclausfund.org](http://www.princeclausfund.org)) supported Tiny Toones creative program and the creation of new original Tiny Toones music and dance. The album and accompanying music video will be released in 2013.

**The Toyota Foundation** ([www.toyotafound.or.jp](http://www.toyotafound.or.jp)) supported Tiny Toones education and creative programs, particularly with regards to female engagement and empowerment.

We would also like to give special thanks to **Richard England** and **Victoria Dawson** for their generosity towards and support for Tiny Toones' work during 2012.

## Tiny Toones performances 2012

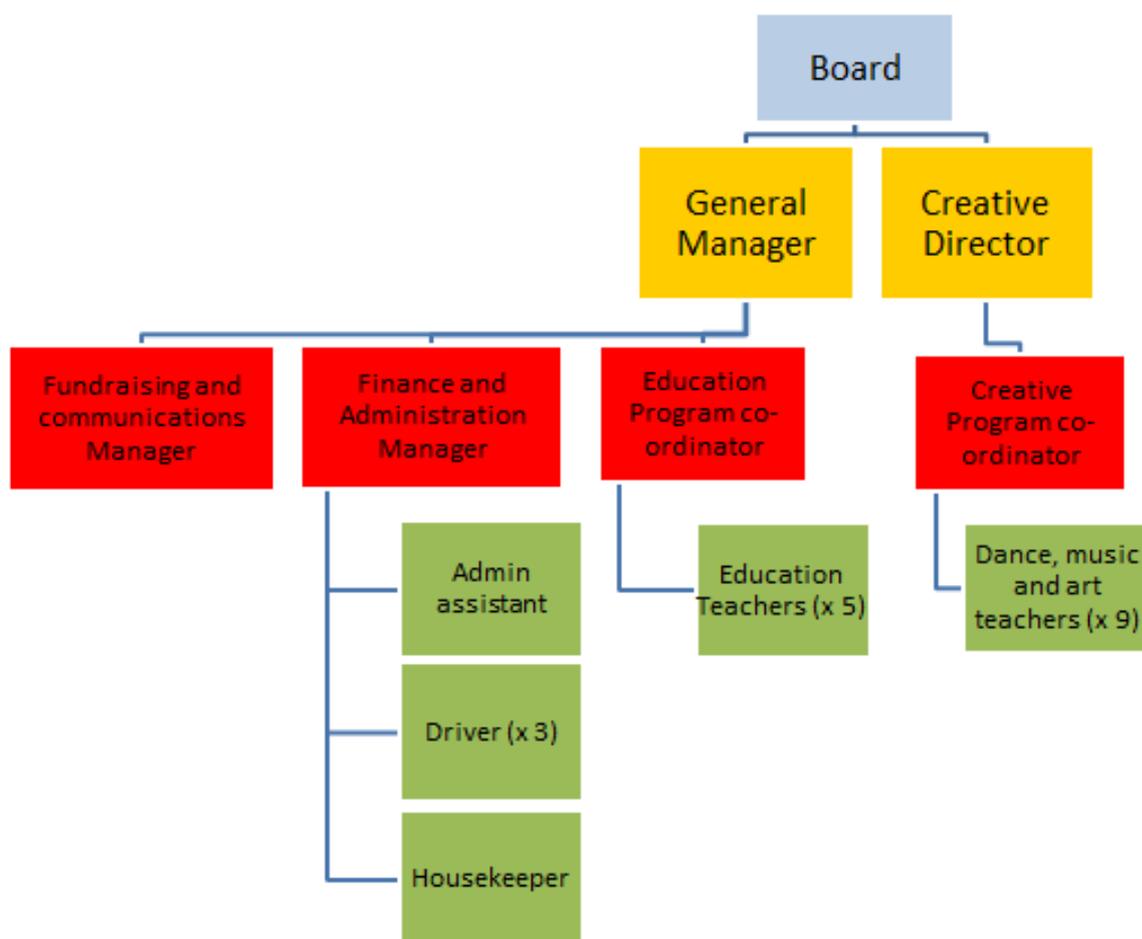
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seven performances of Tiny Toones full-length dramatic show at Chapel off Chapel Theatre, Melbourne, Australia</li> </ul>
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Dance performance at Meta House for McKnight Foundation</li> <li>•Performance at Diamond Island</li> <li>•Dance performance at Tiger Translate event</li> <li>•TV performance on CTN</li> </ul>
Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Preparation for New Zealand tour</li> </ul>
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Workshops and one-off performance of Tiny Toones full-length dramatic show at Auckland Girls Grammar School, Auckland, New Zealand</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pour un Sourire d'Enfants open day featuring Tiny Toones and Skateistan</li> <li>•Launch of Sabay music at Pontoon nightclub</li> </ul>
Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Dance performance at launch event for Nagalottery</li> <li>•Fundraiser for Cambodian poet Kosal at Pontoon nightclub</li> </ul>
Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Three performances across all three days of the Phnom Penh Biker Festival at Hun Sen Park</li> <li>•'Tron dance' for Blue Circle Corporate Event</li> </ul>
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Phnom Penh Post exhibition at Plantation hotel</li> <li>•Four events for Sabay at cinemas, shopping malls and a computer game launch on Diamond Island</li> </ul>
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Skateistan launch event</li> <li>•'Dance School Challenge' fundraiser at Equinox</li> </ul>
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Two performances of 'Carnet de Voyage' at Chenla Theater with Racine Carrees and Nabil Oeulhadj</li> </ul>
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cambodian Living Arts Youth Festival</li> <li>•Tiny Toones fundraiser courtesy of KlapYaHandz at Pontoon nightclub</li> </ul>
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Australia Volunteers International's two day conference</li> <li>•National Computer Game Championships, hosted by Sabay at Chenla Theatre</li> </ul>



## Organisation structure

As of the end of 2012 the organisation's make-up and structure was as follows:

				Total	Male	Female	Under 30
Staff				25	23	3	17
Board	6	4	2	2			



Tiny Toones board members during this period were:

Family name	First name	Family name	First name
Nuttall	Ric	Sok	Visal (Cream)
Otto	Michael	Stevens	Hannah
Pitcaithly*	Lee-Anne	Tuy	Sobil (KK)
Roberts	Jenne		

*\*Stood down during 2012*

## Financial information

### Tiny Toones 2012 Profit and Loss

	2012	2011
<b>Income derived from activities</b>		
Merchandise Sales	1,542	3,267
Performance Income	10,530	10,451
Music & Dance Training	2,650	1,190
<b>Total income from activities</b>	<b>14,722</b>	<b>14,908</b>
<b>Income from donors</b>		
International Tour Income	50,086	-
Individual Donations	24,224	30,156
Scholarship Income	879	313
Institutional Donors	55,792	68,620
<b>Total income from donors</b>	<b>130,981</b>	<b>99,089</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>145,703</b>	<b>113,997</b>
<b>Product Related Costs</b>		
Merchandise Costs	36	535
Performance Costs	4,933	7,134
Music & Dance Training Costs	720	-
	<b>5,689</b>	<b>7,669</b>
<b>International Tour Costs</b>	<b>40,057</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Program Costs</b>		
Core Admin Costs	33,847	40,283
Education Program Costs	26,516	20,093
Creative Program Costs	33,968	24,764
Outreach Program Costs	2,392	7,323
Scholarship Program Costs	4,568	3,502
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	<b>101,290</b>	<b>95,965</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>147,035</b>	<b>103,634</b>
Total (shortfall) / surplus	(1,333)	10,363
Cash Generated from Donors:	130,981	99,089
Cash Generated from Operations:	9,032	7,239
<b>Total:</b>	<b>140,013</b>	<b>106,328</b>

### Tiny Toones 2012 Balance Sheet

	2012	2011
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Total Non - Current Assets	-	-
Cash & Cash Equivalents	26,619	43,355
Other Debtors & Prepayments	7,058	5,950
Deferred Costs		1,659
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>33,677</b>	<b>50,964</b>
Provisions & Other Creditors	151	-
Deferred Revenue		16,105
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>16,105</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>33,526</b>	<b>34,859</b>
Annual (Shortfall) / Surplus	(1,333)	10,363
Reserves b/f	34,859	24,496
<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>33,526</b>	<b>34,859</b>

