

# Tiny Toones Annual Report 2013



Photo by Antonella Clare Vitiello & Gaetano Panariello – GAP fotografia – from “Tiny Toones: A school of life.”

## Contents

Tiny Toones mission.....	2
Tiny Toones kids.....	2
Tuy Sobil (aka “KK”), Tiny Toones Founder and Creative Director .....	3
Tiny Toones highlights 2013.....	4
Engagement.....	5
Inspiration.....	6
Education.....	8
Special thanks to our supporters .....	10
Organisation structure.....	11
Financial information.....	12

## 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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Khan Chamkarmorn  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



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

2013 involved some big changes at Tiny Toones centre. We changed the way things work so that kids who were used to maybe learning only one thing started learning all the skills.

Some can dance and others can't. Some are creative and others aren't. Some can read and write and others can't. We want every kid to be open and to be a part of everything, not just a rapper or a dancer. It's all about bonding and being together and learning together.

It meant a lot of changes for our teachers and they had to take more responsibility as a team. They pushed themselves to become better teachers, better leaders and now I see some of them are really trying to be a father or a brother to the younger kids. It made us stronger but it takes time.

The album we released is really cool with a really positive message: the more you learn the better you become. It was amazing to see the kids in the music video. To not be scared and to just have a blast with it. We want to make more and more videos and give them more chances.



Another high point was the beach retreat involving both teachers and kids for the first time. Both sides got so much out of it. Everyone was willing and joined in with all the exercises and competitions and it was a great chance to reward those that were doing well.

Now we're looking to 2014 and we want to become stronger still, to step up our game. We believe we can push ourselves further, reach out to more kids and be even more creative.

Peace.

A handwritten signature of Tuy Sobil in a cursive, flowing script.

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## Tiny Toones highlights 2013

Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Release of the short film 'A Fresh Start' about Tiny Toones teacher 'Fresh'</li> <li>•Performed with DJ Koflow at Doors Nightclub. DJ Koflow subsequently visited Tiny Toones centre and gave a demonstration for the kids</li> </ul>
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•International Condom day performance on the streets of Phnom Penh</li> </ul>
Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Launch party for new Tiny Toones album 'Anakut' and the 'Anakut' music video</li> <li>• Performed at International Business Chamber Ball</li> </ul>
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Adisor - Phnom Penh's arts &amp; music weekly paper - reviewed the Anakut album</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Start of 'New Term' at Tiny Toones - from May 6 we started offering more classes, more variety and more activities than ever before</li> </ul>
Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tiny Toones article appears in Christian Science Monitor</li> <li>•Beach retreat for select staff and kids - for many their first time ever outside of Phnom Penh</li> </ul>
Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tiny Toones shortlisted for UNICEF Sport for Education Award at Beyond Sport Awards 2013</li> </ul>
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tiny Toones perform at the televised Anachak Dara awards, the Cambodian equivalent of the Oscars</li> </ul>
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•'Anakut' selected for inclusion in the first Cambodian Town Film Festival in Long Beach, California</li> <li>•Teacher 'Fresh' attends three day Beyond Sport summit in Philadelphia</li> </ul>
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's International Group Cambodia provided new equipment and materials for the classrooms</li> <li>•Tiny Toones mentioned in the new edition of Lonely Planet Cambodia</li> </ul>
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Six page article appears in Fah Thai, the Bangkok Airways in-flight magazine</li> </ul>
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Performance at Australia Volunteers International's annual volunteering conference</li> <li>•Awarded a World Childhood Foundation grant for 2014 to introduce a peer mentoring project</li> </ul>



## Engagement

### Reaching out to vulnerable children in Phnom Penh

Tiny Toones serves communities in the districts ('Khans') of Chamkarmorn and Meanchey in Phnom Penh. The Tiny Toones centre was established in Sangkat Chba Ampov in January 2012 in response to high demand for Tiny Toones services. This demand was established through our outreach and transportation service and Tiny Toones has become a much loved part of the local community.



As well as supporting children and young people from the local area, we also operated a transportation service enabling us to extend access to eight further areas. Tiny Toones' van and tuk-tuk collects children in the morning and returns them home for lunch. A second collection is offered after lunch and the children are returned home at the end of the day.

It was through our historical outreach work that we identified the additional sites from which we collect. We prioritised those areas where there was demand for Tiny Toones services and a range of problems related to poverty including drug and substance abuse, sexual and labor exploitation, domestic violence, and gang involvement. The collection route includes slum areas in the following Sangkats: Chba Ampov, Boeung Tumpun, Preaek Pra and Nirouth. We also collect children from one of our key local partners. During 2013 we started introducing our children to Samatapheap Khnom Organisation (SKO), another local NGO offering family counseling services.

Characteristics of our students – based on our end of year survey of 156 kids – are as follows:

<b>Male</b>	74	47%	<b>Female</b>	81	52%
<b>Age</b>					
<5	2	1%	13-15	30	19%
5-7	46	29%	16-18	9	6%
8-9	24	15%	19-21	0	0%
10-12	39	25%	22-25	3	2%

#### Key Figures for 2013

- 720 unique children and young people came to Tiny Toones center in 2013
- 23% surveyed said they had either never been or had stopped going to school
- 17% said they have to help raise money for their families, including children as young as five years old.



## Inspiration

### Creativity and expression at Cambodia's first hip-hop school

Tiny Toones began the year hard at work on a new album of original music. The music classes are divided into three disciplines – DJing, production, and rapping and singing – all of which were brought together.

The album was entitled 'Anakut' (or 'The Future' in English) and was entirely written, produced and recorded by Tiny Toones teachers and students. The songs addressed themes like single mothers supporting their families, the problems that kids go through and how music and dance can change lives and bring about a positive future.



*Photo by Antonella Clare Vitiello & Gaetano Panariello – GAP fotografia – from "Tiny Toones: A school of life."*

At the beginning of March six of Tiny Toones youngest rappers participated in the recording of a music video for the title track. The kids rap about their dreams for the future and the video includes footage of the youngsters in their dream jobs, as pilots, doctors and engineers as well as footage of Tiny Toones centre and teachers. The video went on to make the official selection at the first ever Cambodia Town Film Festival in Long Beach, California, USA (home to the largest Khmer community outside of Cambodia itself).



Over 100 people came to Equinox in Phnom Penh for the album launch party in March. The show began when dancers in special camouflage costumes 'came alive' out of the artwork on display and started dancing. This led into an incredible two hour show featuring over 30 different performers. Brand new dance choreography was set to live performances of tracks from the album.



Many of the artists involved, on both the music and dance sides, were from the younger generation at Tiny Toones and had not previously been involved in performances or creative activity outside the classroom. Seeing their confidence and self-esteem grow was quite incredible. Kids that may have been struggling to fit in or express themselves came out of their shell in the dance studio and the music room, made friends, and became part of the community.



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#### Key Figures for 2013

- Over 6,000 audience members saw Tiny Toones in action during 2013
- 90% feel more confident
- 74% feel they have improved as dancers
- 68% requested one-to-one support from Tiny Toones – something we will offer in 2014 courtesy of new funding from World Childhood Foundation and the Asian Community Trust!





As usual our dancers were in great demand throughout 2013 and performances included International Condom Day, the International Business Chamber of Commerce Annual Ball, and the Create Cambodia Annual Arts Festival.

Tiny Toones dancers performed three original new choreographies in front of over 2,000 people as well as a television audience at the Anachak Dara Awards (the Cambodian equivalent of the Oscars). These combined traditional Khmer and contemporary dance and incorporated elements of life in Phnom Penh (notably the onstage tuk-tuk).

Many Tiny Toones kids have grown up with little by way of hope or expectation for the future. These opportunities to express themselves creatively have the potential to be life-changing. By enabling them to create music and dance instead of slipping into more destructive paths, Tiny Toones can be life-changing for those involved and an inspiration to others like them.



#### Voch's story

*"I used to hate my life, my family and myself before I found Tiny Toones"*

Voch became involved with drugs when he was pressured to try things by his friends after falling in with a bad crowd. His parents had no idea how to help him with his drug use and asked him to leave.

One day a known Cambodian DJ came across Voch and brought him to see KK. KK saw potential in Voch, took him on and mentored him through his drug problems. Now he is teaching rapping and music production. His skills are growing every day and he is responsible for creating all the beats on the Tiny Toones album Anakut.

*"My life has one thing in the future that is fun and happy all day, all the time"*

To see Voch talk about his life and how Tiny Toones changed everything check out his video at <http://www.tinytoones.org/videos/>.

## Education

### Learning and skills at Tiny Toones

*"I'm so thankful to all of the teachers, they teach me about dancing, Khmer and English and they also give me new ideas. Tiny Toones is so important because they help kids with no money or school. I hope more and more kids come to Tiny Toones" – Phanna (12), Tiny Toones student*



From May onwards, our 'new term' offering the kids more classes than ever before. With the emphasis on participation, creativity and – crucially – fun, we ran 9-10 classes simultaneously throughout the day. This also helped us to make the classrooms smaller – no more than 15 in a class – allowing for more personal support and increased the total number of teaching hours to over 11,000 across the year.

In addition to the core Tiny Toones offer of classes in break-dancing, music (DJing, music production and song-writing, rapping and singing), art, English, Khmer and computing, we expanded our range of classes to include health and hygiene and other life-skills, a greater emphasis on math within the non-formal education classes, as well as sport and games.

This 'new term at Tiny Toones' involved more fully utilising our teaching resources. Crucially this enabled us to address one of the challenges that was identified at the end of year one of this project: a lack of female engagement in specific classes such as DJing and music. We now provide each age group with a specific schedule so that they get to spend time in every class. As a result, all of the girls attending now also participate in classes that they may have previously found inaccessible. This has been received with great enthusiasm.

*"I was scared when I first came to Tiny Toones but now I have friends and I'm so happy to study all of the classes, especially English, rap, dance and Khmer. I want Tiny Toones to help all the kids in Cambodia" - Dany (13), Tiny Toones student*

The library class is one of our newest sessions and of late we've seen the kids really blooming as more and more of them actively try out reading for themselves for the first time. Just this last week a whole host of new books arrived in the Tiny Toones library, kindly donated by the Women's International Group (WIG) of Cambodia. Included in the new library collection are books on oral hygiene and food safety which will help us kick-start efforts to educate the kids about the importance of staying healthy and looking after their teeth. Food safety and hygiene are two huge problems in Cambodia and yet sadly many people are not educated enough about their importance.

WIG also donated new desks, chairs and fans for the classrooms so the kids (and teachers) can stay cool during the daily hot weather in Cambodia. Along with the addition of the library class, we've also incorporated more math into our Khmer and English classes of late. In fact, we are now teaching more different subjects than ever before.







The computer class is a big hit with the kids who would have no access to information technology otherwise. They're excited to learn how to type quickly and effectively. As for our English class, it's hard to believe the confidence our kids exhibit when talking to foreigners who visit the centre.

The last Friday of every month is now dedicated to celebrating the achievements of the kids and showing off what they've learnt over the preceding weeks. All of the children gather in the courtyard to

applaud those getting certificates and to show off their dancing, singing, and basketball shooting (and to cheer on the contestants in our 'typing race' and other competitions).

Kong (12) said: *"I'm so thankful to all of the teachers, they teach me about dancing, Khmer and English and they also give me new ideas. Tiny Toones is so important because they help kids with no money or school. I hope more and more kids come to Tiny Toones."*

In September 2013 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 for the second year running. At the summit we had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with like-minded organisations.

As we head into 2014 our classes are smaller, more varied, and better equipped and our teachers are really blossoming with the support provided to them.

#### Key Figures for 2013

- 93% say they are now more motivated to learn
- 83% feel they have improved in Khmer
- 83% feel they have improved in computer skills
- 76% feel they have improved at math
- 75% feel they have improved in English



#### Homie's story

*"I am so grateful to have been shown the right direction. Honestly, if it wasn't for Tiny Toones, I would still be doing bad things or be in prison"*

When Homie was 10 years old there was a fire that took the family home and all their money with it. Suddenly they were poor with no food.

Homie had to drop out so he could pick up cans and shine shoes to earn money for the family. He was also hanging out with "gangsters" in the parks of Phnom Penh, fighting and being rowdy. Soon their activities escalated to drinking and stealing.

It was then that he met KK. Homie was enthralled by KK's breakdancing skills and joined the children learning to dance in KK's apartment. Seven years on and Homie is still dancing and, with Tiny Toones support, is in the final year of a university degree.

*"I love Tiny Toones, I want to help any kid with a background like me to have a better future."*

To see Homie talk about his life and how Tiny Toones changed everything check out his video at <http://www.tinytoones.org/videos/>.

## 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 2013:



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

## 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.



**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, particularly the original album 'Anakut' and accompanying music video.

Prince Claus Fund for  
Culture and Development

**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.



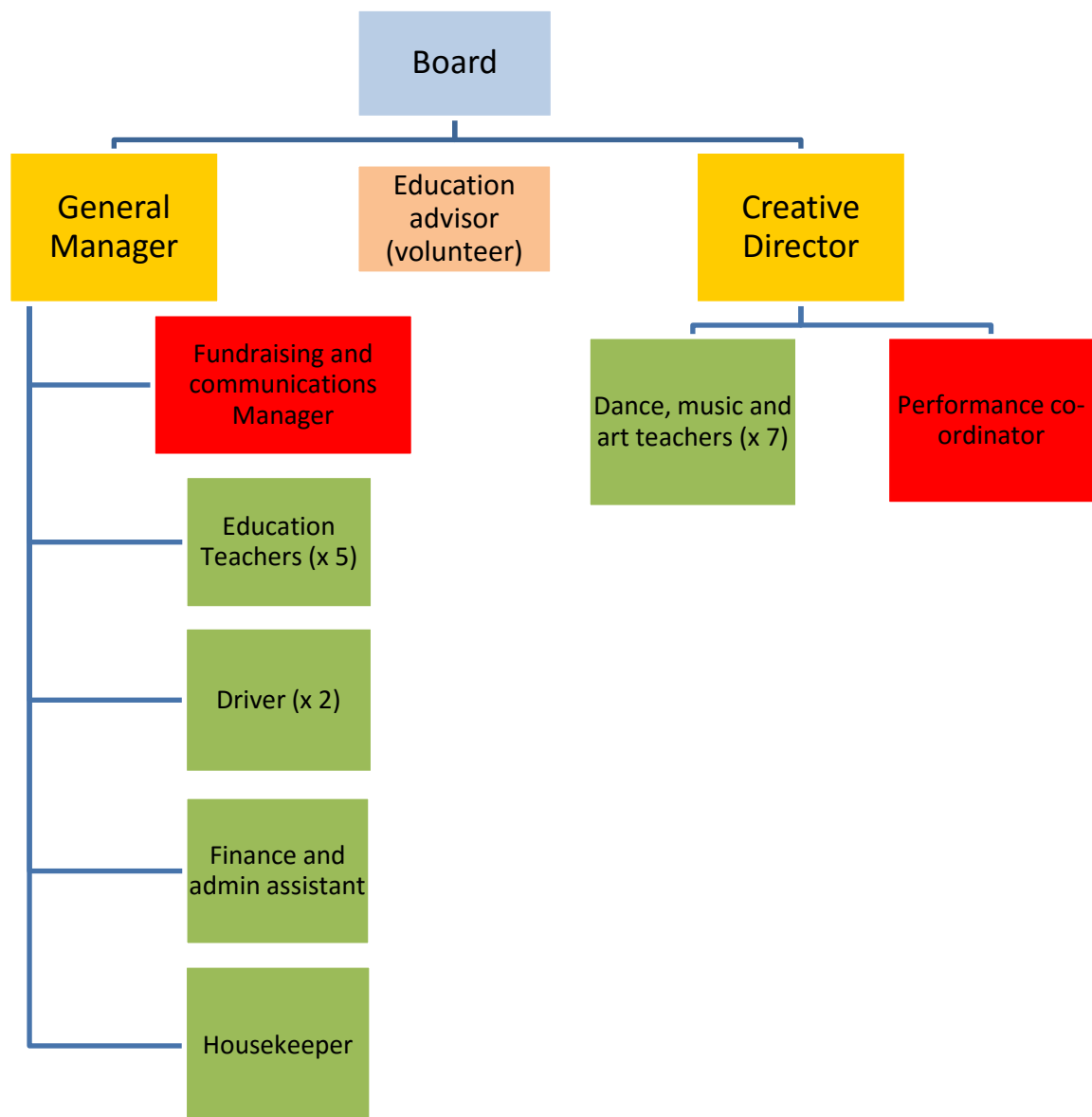
The Women's International Group of Cambodia (<http://www.wigcambodia.com/>) supported Tiny Toones in upgrading our facilities and classroom equipment.

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 2013.

## Organisation structure

As of the end of 2013 the organisation's make-up and structure was as follows:

	Total	Male	Female	Under 30
Staff	20	18	2	15
Board	7	3	4	1
Volunteer	1	0	1	0



Tiny Toones board members during this period were:

### Family name

Nuttall

Otto

Nowaczyk

Roberts

### First name

Ric

Michael

Monika

Jenne

### Family name

Sok

Stevens

Tuy

### First name

Visal (Cream)

Hannah

Sobil (KK)



## 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>
<b>Total (shortfall) / surplus</b>	<b>(1,333)</b>	<b>10,363</b>
<b>Cash Generated from Donors:</b>	<b>130,981</b>	<b>99,089</b>
<b>Cash Generated from Operations:</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>7,239</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>140,013</b>	<b>106,328</b>

### Tiny Toones 2012 Balance Sheet

	2012	2011
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
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>

