



# Annual Report 2016



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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 opportunities, 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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## Tuy Sobil (aka 'KK'), Tiny Toones Founder and Executive Director

As always, 2016 has posed a lot of challenges for us here at Tiny Toones but I'm proud of what we achieved and excited about what lies ahead in 2017.

Our **biggest achievements for 2016** included keeping Tiny Toones fully operational despite a climate where - like many NGOs in Cambodia and across the world - we faced severe funding challenges. Not only were we able to maintain our services, but we continued reaching as many students as ever. We even took bold creative steps towards bringing those students new opportunities while also seeking greater financial stability and security, through the opening of a new social enterprise.



While some of our older kids are now employed by us as teachers, others have moved on to be performers or artists in their own right. It's exciting to see them building their own careers using the skills learnt and developed with us as well as their own dedication and talent. We've been encouraging those that are back with us teaching to take a more active role in Tiny Toones and the way they're maturing and responding to this and becoming leaders and role models has been inspiring. It's also amazing to see our younger kids' progress in both dance and education. They're constantly improving and have started performing with us, their confidence visibly improving every step of the way.

One of the most exciting moments was undoubtedly the opening of The Cool Lounge in July. We believe this new venue in the heart of Phnom Penh will bring us greater financial stability and sustainability, while also giving the kids opportunities to record their own material and realize their creative potential.

Looking ahead to **key objectives for 2017**, I believe Tiny Toones needs to grow again in 2017. We need to bring in more teachers so we can reach out to even more of the kids that still urgently need our help. Doing this is going to require resources, so we'll be looking at how to raise funds which have such a huge impact and return on investment, while raising our public profile through social media and engagement with our communities. As ever, we are thinking creatively, and this extends to our day to day work: we're exploring new projects including new music and videos, and exciting new dance works.

It's going to be hard work but I firmly believe that together we will get there.

Tuy Sobil (KK), Founder and Executive Director

## 2016 Highlights

The next generation of students start to perform publicly including on a boat on the Mekong River and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Phnom Penh Tower



Two new teachers, Joss and Jess, join our staff here at Tiny Toones

The Cool Lounge opened in July 2016 giving us the opportunity to help our kids record their own original material



Changes to the Tiny Toones Board of Trustees are completed as two new board members join

KK travels to Singapore with some of our teachers for a performance for the Global Fund for Children

Tiny Toones dancers collaborate with B-Boys in Darwin, Australia for the 'Between Tiny Cities' show

## Creativity

Tiny Toones Creative Program uses the culture of hip-hop and breakdance as a vehicle to reach vulnerable young people and as a means of self-expression. The popularity of hip-hop among Cambodian youth gives Tiny Toones its unique appeal. During 2016 the Creative Program provided over 125 hours of lessons in break-dancing every month.

The program is run by a dedicated team of teachers with support from the Tiny Toones management team. They are all former Tiny Toones students who have demonstrated both talent and an ability to reflect on their own learning and to lead others in doing so. As they share similar backgrounds with our students and have all been through our system, they are uniquely well placed to build strong relationships and act as positive role models.



The Creative Program dance students are not only dedicated but also hugely talented. Whilst some of our older kids have gone on to teach with us or work as performers at international events in Australia and Singapore over the last year, the next generation are now coming through our creative classes. In 2016 they continued to develop their skills and experience through public performances. These included the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Phnom Penh Tower and a particularly challenging event on a boat on the Mekong River with the kids showing their talent and self-confidence throughout.

We have been able to see over the year how our students have benefitted from the Creative Program. Even our youngest kids are showing more confidence and imagination in both their dancing and academic work. They also benefit from having former students now teaching them as they have strong positive role models that show them what they can achieve with commitment and dedication.



### Key figures for 2016

- Over 125 hours of dance lessons each month.
- 95% of respondents to our recent survey stated they feel more confident after attending Tiny Toones.
- 92% felt they were able to communicate better.

## Education

Tiny Toones unique approach utilizes the popularity of hip-hop and breakdance amongst young Cambodians to reach those who are most excluded from education. Many of the children that come to Tiny Toones are not in school. Some may have dropped out or some may never have been enrolled. The Education Program helps them to build positive learning experiences, key skills, confidence and the communication skills necessary to improve their eventual employability and life chances as well as to engage with the public school system.

During 2016 the Education Program provided over 650 hours of lessons in English, Khmer, maths and computer skills every month. The Education Program teachers have received training on interactive teaching methodology and classroom measurement to help them to deliver engaging high quality lessons. Like all of our Tiny Toones staff, they have also been trained in child protection protocol. The Education Program acts as a gateway to help our students into the public school system. Once they are engaging with the program, they will be offered one of our Tiny Toones Scholarships.



Over the year, we had an average of 140 children and young people attend each month with up to 130 in attendance on a single day. In a country where females are particularly disadvantaged in accessing education it was notable that 46% were girls and young women.

Through developing key skills, confidence and self-esteem, the Tiny Toones Education Program is building the capacity of some of the poorest children in Phnom Penh to take control of their futures and build a life beyond poverty.

Our latest student survey found the following:

- 90% of respondents said that they come to Tiny Toones every day.
- 92% were more motivated to learn.
- 100% felt they had improved their Khmer.
- 95% felt they had improved their English.
- 95% felt they had improved at maths.
- 95% felt they had improved their IT skills.
- 61% of respondents are now attending public school every day.
- 62% of our students cited that they like to study as the main reason they come to Tiny Toones.

## Scholarships



Tiny Toones operates a Scholarship Program for students who are committed to furthering their education but who are prevented from doing so by financial barriers such as uniform and registration costs. Without the financial support we offer, many children who would otherwise want to enter the public school system would be prevented from doing so. When offering students one of our scholarships, we will also work with their family to ensure that they are aware and supportive of the process. Making sure that the child has emotional support both at home and with Tiny Toones maximizes the chances of them remaining in education over the long term and so building a future for themselves beyond poverty.

We continued to provide direct financial support in 2016 integrating students into grades 3, 4 and 7 and they are now attending public school regularly. Although we currently do not have any Tiny Toones students in university, we have in the past supported them with this and will continue to do so. We have also continued to support all those students already enrolled back into public school as they work hard on their education.

Given the myriad barriers to educational progress that the children and young people at Tiny Toones face, every single person that moves into the education system must be seen as an individual whose life has been transformed; their prospects, their options and their personal capacity are all greater than they could have ever been without Tiny Toones involvement.

We will offer scholarships to all those that want to engage with the Cambodian public school system although this depends on our financial ability to continue to do so.

### Fresh's Story

Fresh first joined Tiny Toones in 2005 but 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 mum 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 was eventually able to offer him a position as a dance teacher. He is still teaching with us and has obtained a degree with the help of a Tiny Toones scholarship.

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



## Peer Mentoring

For any young person, going into mainstream education can be a challenge emotionally as well as financially. Some of our kids may never even have been to school when they come to us, so settling into a formal classroom setting can be particularly difficult for them. To support Tiny Toones students with this process, we launched our Peer Mentoring Program in 2014.

This gives each child the opportunity for one-to-one support from our teachers. Those in need of support are identified by teachers and receive mentoring determined by the needs of each individual child. This support is available to all of our students but we will particularly encourage those who are receiving a scholarship from Tiny Toones to engage with their peer mentor to help them adjust to life back in education. Each child's situation is assessed on an individual basis. This means that in some cases the peer mentoring support can be short-term whilst other children may have a mentor over a number of years.

Since the launch, the program has gone from strength to strength and in 2016 we had 74 children take advantage of the Peer Mentoring Program. Many of these kids will carry on receiving this support throughout the coming year to help their continued development.

### Slick's Story

Slick is one of eight siblings. He went to school until his parents couldn't afford it any longer. He then dropped out, started collecting rubbish on the streets and eventually moved out of the family home. He started to turn to drugs to take away the pain of missing his family. He was too embarrassed to return home so he slept around the streets.

He was eventually introduced to KK and began to come to Tiny Toones. He quickly showed both his dancing and academic talent. Slick has now performed internationally with us and is regularly performing around Cambodia. He is also employed by Tiny Toones as a teacher supporting the next generation through schemes like our Peer Mentoring Program.



## The Cool Lounge

July 2016 saw an exciting development for Tiny Toones as we launched our social enterprise, The Cool Lounge. Located in the Toul Tom Pong (Russian Market) area of Phnom Penh, the Lounge is a food and drinks venue. The opening of the Lounge means that we are now able to offer training and employment opportunities in the hospitality industry to former students.



Above the Lounge we also have purpose built dance and recording studios. These will give further opportunities for our students to develop their creative skills as well as enabling Tiny Toones to offer dance lessons to the general public. Ultimately we hope to enable Cambodian youth to produce their own original material and develop their artistic careers with our ongoing support. These spaces will be available for hire to the general public.

The Cool Lounge will also help to support our work at Tiny Toones financially giving us greater stability and sustainability as we move into 2017 and beyond.

We would like to thank the Global Fund for Children who have helped fund the Cool Lounge, without their vital support we would not be able to embark on this exciting development.



## Financial Statement

### Tiny Toones Balance Sheet 2016 (\$USD)

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	34,581	55,290
Receivables from Donors	369	642
Deposit	6,000	2,500
Other Debtors	1,500	780
Inventories	172	189
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>42,622</b>	<b>59,401</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>42,622</b>	<b>59,401</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	60	96
Other Creditors	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>42,562</b>	<b>59,305</b>
<b>Total surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>(11,562)</b>	<b>(997)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS YEAR BEGINNING</b>	<b>54,124</b>	<b>60,302</b>
<b>NET ASSETS YEAR END</b>	<b>42,562</b>	<b>59,305</b>

## Tiny Toones Profit and Loss 2016 (\$USD)

	2016	2015
<b>INCOME</b>		
Income from activities		
Merchandise Sales	1,495	2,140
Performance Income	900	5,905
Music & Dance Training	-	-
Total income from activities	<b>2,395</b>	<b>8,045</b>
Income from donors:		
International Tour Income	494	1,035
Individual Donations	37,404	39,921
Scholarship Income	-	112
Centre Tours	-	197
Institutional Donors	18,074	14,371
Total income from donors	<b>55,972</b>	<b>55,636</b>
Total Income:	<b>58,367</b>	<b>63,681</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Product Related Costs:		
Merchandise Costs	414	585
Performance Costs	1,447	2,158
Music & Dance Training Costs	-	-
International Tour Costs	348	600
	<b>2,209</b>	<b>3,343</b>
<b>Core Admin Costs</b>	13,181	41,094
Operations Salary	24,720	
<b>Program Costs:</b>		
Education Program Costs		
+Rental	16,336	11,921
Creative Program Costs +		
Rental	13,483	8,321
Total Program Costs	<b>67,720</b>	<b>61,336</b>
Total Costs	<b>69,929</b>	<b>64,678</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME/EXPENSES</b>		
Total surplus / (shortfall)	<b>(11,562)</b>	<b>(997)</b>

## 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 2016:



The Asian Community Trust ([www.act-trust.org](http://www.act-trust.org)) supported our Peer Mentoring Program for the third year running.

The Global Fund for Children ([www.globalfundforchildren.org](http://www.globalfundforchildren.org)) supported Tiny Toones in setting up The Cool Lounge.



supported Tiny Toones in

The David Choe Young Foundation ([www.tdycfoundation.org](http://www.tdycfoundation.org)) made another substantial donation towards our core work.

