

## PATRICIA BONELLI BIO--

An adopted child from birth, Patricia Bonelli lost the happy innocence of childhood early. Being gang-raped at age 13 was merely the beginning of trouble stalking her at every turn: A school dropout in seventh grade. A runaway living on the streets. A prostitute for a pimp. A single teenage mother. All of this, she had experienced by the tender age of 18.

In 1984, Bonelli began working as a parole/probation officer, working with criminal offenders in places like San Quentin prison, whose choices, like her history, had led them to desperate places.

Patricia retired after 20 years in Law Enforcement and relocated from San Francisco to Maui, Hawaii, where she wrote her inspirational true story of courage and redemption, "**Owning Patricia: A Story of Breaking Free**", about her life as a teenage prostitute and single mother, to her triumph over adversity, and how she forged a successful career.

In 1998, Bonelli became a certified Life Coach, Mentor, and Motivational Speaker. Bonelli believes it is possible to overcome any hurdle in life by combining faith and optimism. She has appeared on numerous radio and TV shows around the country. Her passion is working on the The Affinity Center, a charitable foundation for young women in need of safe harbor. Money from proceeds of "Owning Patricia" will be used as seed money for a retreat center where young women will inspired, educated, and motivated about how to pursue their life goals.

Patricia Bonelli was born in San Francisco, California. She graduated from St. Mary's College in 1992 with a degree in Business Administration. She completed a Bachelor's Degree at Sonoma State in 1989, in Psychology and Criminology.

Patricia is the mother of 4 adult children, 3 daughters and one son. She resides in Laguna Beach, California.