



After paroling prison on December 13, 2008, **Tony Hoffman** started living out his dream, with his addiction behind him. Tony is a Former BMX Elite Pro and placed 2nd at the 2016 World Championships in Medellin Colombia in the Masters Pro class. He is a 2016 Rio Olympic Games Coach, with Women's BMX PRO, Brooke Crain, in his lineup. His story is full of redemption as he has seen some of the highest highs, and the lowest lows. Tony has presented on the highly coveted TEDx stage and is the Founder and Director of The Freewheel Project, a non-profit organization that mentors thousands of youth through action sports: BMX, skateboarding and after-school programs. The Freewheel Project focuses on teaching kids leadership skills and making healthy life choices, including substance abuse prevention.

#### The Early Years

Tony has been sober since May 17th, 2007. His BMX career started in high school, as he was a top-ranked BMX amateur with multiple endorsements. As a native of Clovis, Ca, where he attended Clovis High School, Tony started drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, and using prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and Oxycontin by his senior year. His life took a turn for the worse as he became addicted at such a young age, losing everything.

In 2004 Tony committed a home invasion armed robbery and was ultimately sent to prison for two years in 2007. Tony had violated his probation and knows the depths of addiction, and understands the despair addicts go through as even a ten-year prison sentence threat, could not stop him from using during his probation. Tony began rebuilding his life's purpose while he spent two years in prison. As soon as he was released, he used the positive and negatives of his life to get to work...

## Testimonials

“Tony Hoffman is amazing!!! He is genuine, honest and inspiring in sharing his story of addiction and recovery. He is such a dynamic speaker that our students and community members hung on his every word. You could have heard a pin drop during his presentation.”

- Alamo Heights ISD Wellness Coordinator.

“Tony's talk made an indelible mark on our school. He is down to earth, engaging, funny, and real, and our students connected well to his message. Schools today, more than ever, need social and emotional support for all students. Tony reinforced our work in this area in ways that we could not have on our own. Tony is one of the most sought after speakers in the country, and his message is one of hope, resilience, and the small things students can do to bring their gifts and talents to life.”

- Principal La Cañada High School.

### Tony Hoffman

### Speech Topics

- Overcoming Adversity
- Addiction

