



## Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff Begins the Celebration!

Not even the threat of snow could cool the ardor of all those who came out to attend our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff, filling our house to enjoy a conversation between WWf(a)C Founder, Mary Pierce Brosmer and Krista Ramsey, journalist and Director of Communications, Finneytown Schools. Ably facilitated by our own Annette Januzzi Wick, Mary and Krista reflected on the importance of women and girls' voices in our changing world. Mary reiterated her commitment to WWf(a)C as "a safe place for women to tell their stories" without measurement or judgment and with "a confidence that isn't arrogance." In response, Krista, who has written extensively about education, children's health and the lives of disadvantaged young women, stressed that "giving us a safe place allowed us to go places that weren't safe" and to write the stories that lived there. Commenting on her newspaper series about girls in the Price Hill neighborhood, Krista was heartened by the fact that these girls "got to hear their own voices" and that through giving voice to their stories "young people are a good way to tell the story of a community, of a city." Both Mary and Krista discussed the immense value of listening to women's stories as a way to empower them. As Mary commented, "In a distracted world, listening is a way to be *right there* with the speaker." Reflecting on the WWf(a)C that has grown from her dream of women sitting around a table "telling their truth—joyful, tragic, violent, peaceful," Mary remarked that "when women tell the truth of their lives, things will change. They can effect change in the shape of the world through their voices and changes in their own lives." Krista put a fitting cap on the evening when she observed, "Things happen differently here." Thanks to all who contributed to this event, and to the reception which followed. It was a grand night!

