

THE HOT SEAT



Virginia Sweet | Fund-ational Change

As Executive Director of The Women's Fund, Virginia instigates change at the heart of issues facing women and girls in our area.

"Only six percent of grant dollars are dedicated to programs for women and girls," she says, "yet, it's [they] that are disproportionately affected by some of the worst social issues: poverty, violence, just basic rights. I realized that unless we can change policies and attack problems at the bigger level, we can only go so far helping individuals." So, in order to promote financial independence, decrease domestic violence and help girls reach their potential, the fund launches initiatives like Voices Against Violence and Women's Economic Security. "There are so many women in good careers now that earn good money in the corporate world," she says. "Now they can use their disposable income to invest in women's leadership programs and opportunities, and move everyone forward."

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Photo by Stephen DeVries