In the fall of 2014, friends and family of our beloved founding advisory board member and dear friend, John Falkenberg, came together to establish the John Fund. We held our first event in December 2014 to mark the occasion.

John set us on the path of serving and preparing healthy food and teaching nutrition throughout all of SMART’s programs and activities. He will always be in our hearts and minds. We follow his kind, patient, and expert guidance and live out his legacy every single day at SMART.
Andrea began her culinary journey at the New York Restaurant School in New York City. Upon graduating, she went on to work in the high-end restaurant world, spending long hours in the kitchens of acclaimed chefs and restaurateurs. She even opened a few high profile restaurants, one being the acclaimed Harlem eatery *The Red Rooster*. On a few occasions, she cooked for President Barack Obama at the White House!

But something was missing. She wanted to give back and make a change using the bounty of food. To this end, she founded the Chef Training Program at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. A free fourteen week culinary program, the Chef Training Program teaches students culinary techniques and job readiness, connects them to social services, and empowers them with education, food, and community.

Congratulations to our 2017 John Falkenberg Award recipient, Chef Andrea Bergquist-Zamir.

Thank You to the 2017 John Fund Host Committee for your generous support.

Jeff Birnbaum, Mel Blatman & Alex Singletary, Chuck Christopher & Jeff Schutt, Thomas F. Cook, Bryce Diamond, Tom & Linda Falkenberg, Tony Feldmesser & Richard Louth, Bryce Ferguson, Derek Flanagan, Madeline Gutman & Mark Brown, Catherine Hanssens, Kenneth Henry, Nancy Hirsch Diamond, Mary McCormick, Marilyn Mills, Kathy & Steve Rosenblum, Joe Sonnabend, Jim Speciale, Mark & Nancy Taylor