Yoga Alliance Announces 2016 Community Service Awards

Arlington, Va. (March 15, 2016) – Yoga Alliance announced the establishment of the 2016 Community Service Awards recognizing RYT®s and RYS®s who help make a difference in the lives of others both on and off the mat.

This September, Yoga Alliance will be recognizing members of the Yoga Alliance community, including recipients of the 2016 scholarships from the Yoga Alliance Foundation, community advocates who fight to protect yoga, as well as recipients of four service awards who are nominated by the yoga community. Winners will be brought to Washington, D.C., to attend a ceremony in their honor.

“Yoga Alliance is proud to recognize yoga’s dedicated community of people who often go above and beyond when it comes to helping others,” said Yoga Alliance Executive Director and COO Barbara Dobberthien.

Nominations are now open through May 15 at 11:59 p.m. ET for RYT’s and RYS’s in the following award categories. Entries will be judged in the areas of effectiveness, originality, impact and dedication.

- **Open Heart Award**: Given for outstanding volunteer yoga teaching benefitting underserved or deserving populations
- **Warrior Award**: Given for yogic service to firefighters, policemen, veterans, military service members and/or their families
- **Giving Back Award**: Given for service and volunteerism in the community beyond yoga (e.g. food drives, or a yoga teacher that volunteers at a homeless shelter)
- **Youth Development Award**: Given for the sharing of yoga with underprivileged, special needs or otherwise at-risk children

The entire yoga community also will have the chance to vote for one overall “community choice award” winner later this year.

ABOUT YOGA ALLIANCE

Yoga Alliance is the largest international nonprofit association promoting and supporting the diversity and integrity of the teaching of yoga. Currently, more than 67,700 Registered Yoga Teachers (RYT®) and 4,300 Registered Yoga Schools (RYS®) are represented by Yoga Alliance. The organization also educates the public on the value and credibility of voluntary registration with Yoga Alliance Registry and upholds the worldwide growth of yoga through education and community.