



Light is precious in a
world so dark...

Make some light.

—KATE DICAMILLO

Creating a light to cut through the cold and dark of winter seems to be a universal human need. Making and lighting luminarias is a holiday tradition in many cultures. These bags of light are put outside as a welcoming sign to those who see them.

Child sexual abuse thrives in darkness and secrecy. Every year around 300,000 children in the United States are sexually abused. At Defend Innocence, we are fighting to prevent child sexual abuse by educating and empowering parents, caregivers, and community members. One essential step to eradicating this epidemic is bringing it into the light and talking about it.

The light of a luminaria is carefully protected from the wind, just as the light in every child must be protected. Show your support for the children in your life. This year create a new family tradition—make a luminaria and display it proudly. Let the world know that you are not ashamed to shine a light for children and that you will protect them from sexual abuse.

defend
innocence



Hold Your Own Luminaria Event

Start a new winter tradition this year by holding your own Luminaria event in your neighborhood or at your work. It's easy! Simply follow these steps:

- 1 Create luminarias with your family, friends, and/or coworkers. (Instructions below.)
- 2 Place them out in your yard, in your windows, or at your place of business.
- 3 Post pictures using **#MakeManyRipples** and encourage other people to join you.

How to Make Your Own Luminaria



1

Write your child's name (or the name of a child you love) on a paper bag.

2

Fill the bottom of the bag with sand, and place a battery-operated tea light in the bag.



3

Put the bag on display to show your support.