

Anna Stork

Anna Stork (born 1984) was a Columbia University graduate who co-invented LuminAid¹ in 2010 with Andrea Shreshta. LuminAid is an inflatable, waterproof, solar-recharged lantern. After the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Stork and Shreshta invented their device as part of a humanitarian disaster relief class project². After witnessing the devastation that wrecked Haiti, Stork and Shreshta combined their joint interest in experimenting with solar power technology to aid victims³. By scraping together recycled parts, they created a thin, dependable light. The LuminAid invention addresses the basic human need for light during a disaster for cleaning, cooking and movement. The device can be recharged over 500 times and last years because the light can last for 16 hours with a recharge time of just six hours needed. This rechargeable lantern is now a staple item in standard disaster relief kits and used in over a hundred countries worldwide. Over 50,000 LuminAid devices have been deployed to refugees. Anna Stork and Andrea Shreshta launched their product LuminAid through the Indiegogo crowdfunding program, where, with each recreational lantern purchased, one was sent to a developing country⁴. After founding their company LuminAID in 2011, the pair worked with the relief foundation ShelterBox to distribute lanterns following the 2013 Phillipines Typhoon. In 2015, Stork and Shresta pitched their light product on ABC's SharkTank in season six, episode twenty. The partners received offers from all sharks and ultimately accepted Mark Cuban's offer for \$200,000 with 15% company equity. Cuban's feedback prompted them to implement a phone charger into the device and gave them the means to donate more lanterns to those in need. Stork and Shreshta have expanded their brand to include camping lanterns, garden lights, relief lights, and multi-use home lanterns. Further accomplishments for Stork and Shreshta include winning the 2012 Social New Venture Challenge and, in 2013, winning a \$1,000 prize from the US Department of Energy at the Clean Energy Challenge. Anna Stork and Andrea Sreshta continue to run their company

¹ Wikimedia Foundation. (2021, August 8). *Luminaid*. Wikipedia. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LuminAID>.

² Burns, S., & Harrington, J. (2018, September 17). *32 amazing women inventors*. 247 Wall St. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from <https://247wallst.com/special-report/2018/09/17/living-women-inventors-you-should-know-about-now/4/>.

³ Lagorio-Chafkin, C. (2016, May 24). *Meet LuminAid, the earthquake-inspired startup every shark wanted a piece of*. Inc.com. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from <https://www.inc.com/christine-lagorio/2016-30-under-30-luminaid.html>.

⁴ EverybodyWiki Bios & Wiki. (2021, June 25). *Andrea Sreshta*. EverybodyWiki Bios & Wiki. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from https://en.everybodywiki.com/Andrea_Sreshta.

LuminAID, and in 2021, LuminAID became strategic partners with ShelterBox to better respond with disaster relief⁵. Their inventions continue to help thousands of people around the world.

Anna Stork was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1987, and she is best known for her invention of LuminAid, the inflatable, solar-powered light. Stork graduated from Dartmouth College in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Engineering Sciences and Studio Art⁶. She received her Master's in Architecture at Columbia University in 2011. Stork joined the Koffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship in 2012 as a Kauffman Global Scholar and has worked as an Operations Associate Intern for prescription lens start-up Warby Parker⁷. In 2012, Stork was a finalist for North America in the Cartier Woman's Initiative⁸. Anna Stork has been recognized for her accomplishments in "Forbes 30 Under 20," "Inc.'s 30 Under 30," and "LinkedIn's Next Wave 35 and Under" articles. Stork has also worked at the US Department of Defense in product development. Anna Stork currently holds 4 joint patents for light devices⁹.

⁵ LuminAID. (n.d.). *About Luminaid*. LuminAID. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from

<https://luminaid.com/pages/about-luminaid>.

⁶ EverybodyWiki Bios & Wiki. (2021, August 14). *Anna Stork*. EverybodyWiki Bios & Wiki.

Retrieved December 1, 2021, from https://en.everybodywiki.com/Anna_Stork.

⁷ IMDb.com. (n.d.). *Anna Stork*. IMDb. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7161695/bio>.

⁸ *Anna Stork*. Cartier Women's Initiative. (2019, March 7). Retrieved December 1, 2021, from

<https://www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/story/anna-stork>.

⁹ *Anna Stork - co-founder - luminaid | linkedin*. LinkedIn. (n.d.). Retrieved December 1, 2021,

from <https://www.linkedin.com/in/astorka>.