

**Read**

On December 2, 1993 a brick was thrown through 5-year-old Isaac Schnitzer's bedroom window. Luckily, Isaac was not in his room and was not hurt. The brick was thrown in response to a menorah and other Jewish symbols decorating the windows as part of the family's Chanukah celebration. A police officer told Isaac's mom to remove the symbols fearing that more bricks might be thrown at the house. Isaac's mom was upset by this. How would she explain this to her Isaac?

Margaret McDonald, another mother in the same town of Billings, MT was deeply touched by that question. She tried to imagine explaining to her children that they couldn't have a Christmas tree in the window because it wasn't safe.

Margaret McDonald phoned her pastor and asked what he thought of having Sunday school children make paper cut-out menorahs for their own windows. The pastor got on the phone with his clergy colleagues around town, and the following week menorahs appeared in the windows of hundreds of Christian homes. Asked about the danger of this action, the police chief told callers, "There's greater risk in not doing it."

Five days after the brick was thrown at the Schnitzer home, the *Gazette* published a full-page drawing of a menorah, along with a general invitation for people to hang it in their windows. By the end of the week at least six thousand homes (some accounts estimate up to ten thousand) were decorated with menorahs.

A sporting goods store got involved by displaying "Not in Our Town! No hate. No violence. Peace on Earth" on its large billboard. Now, new friendships have formed, new traditions have started, and greater understanding has been achieved.

**Do**

In the *hanukkah* provided, follow the prompts to explore the main ideas in this story.