The mission of the Communitas Program, founded by Dr. Brittany Blockman, is to meet some of the unmet coping, mental health, peer support and overall psycho-social needs of San Francisco Bay Area teens living with chronic illness and their families by:

- Empowering them with mind-body skills to improve coping and reduce illness-associated stress and mental distress, with the ultimate goal of fostering resilience in the face of adversity.
- Facilitating peer support and sharing to promote engagement with a diagnosis, emotional support, self-awareness, and a sense of connectedness.
- Providing access to adjunct modalities to address pain/symptoms.
- Providing a forum for discussion of the more practical aspects of navigating the health system and chronic illness during the transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- Bolstering self-care skills with the hope of improving adherence and decreasing unplanned visits to medical providers.

Dr. Danielle Cullen created the "Little People, Big Hunger" program which aims to create a simple and sustainable method of identifying patients who are food insecure who present to the emergency department (ED) of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and to connect these families with needed food resources. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center cares for 88% of low-income children in Allegheny County; the vast majority are seen at Children's Hospital. In particular, the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh ED serves as a point of entry into care and is often a provider of primary care for the population most at-risk. This program integrates a screening tool into the electronic medical record (EMR) that will enable health care clinicians an opportunity to connect these families with local food assistance agencies. This program therefore creates a new standard of care in the ED, and a model by which hospitals nationwide can effectively and seamlessly address food insecurity as a component of child health.
The Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) operates many clinics for HIV positive children throughout sub-Saharan Africa. To help boost and maintain adherence, the patient and family undergo extensive adherence counseling before starting HIV medications. It is during this time that the story of their little soldiers is told to the children. They are told that they have soldiers in their body that protect them and explain to them that by taking their medications they help keep their soldiers safe.

However, the message about medication adherence starts and ends in the BIPAI clinic. Once the patient leaves with their medications, it is up to them to take them on time.

Dr. Ricketts' project, Our Little Soldiers- A Book for Children Living with HIV, attempts to help support patient medication adherence by bridging this gap and giving the patient take home materials. It takes the little soldiers story that is told to the children in the BIPAI clinics and puts it into a take home children's book. The book, to be translated into several languages and distributed via several BIPAI clinics will aim to boost medication adherence in HIV positive children in Africa.