TACKERS 2015
A parents’ perspective
Ligia and Vitor Martins accompany 11-year-old Vitor Junior to TACKERS and join the ‘TACKERS Friends’ program

TACKERS Camp is much more than an adventure week for transplanted kids; it’s an amazing experience for all - kids and parents.

Before experiencing this special week, as parents we felt excited and at the same time frightened for our son Vitor. It was the first time that he would be on his own, meeting a lot a new people and letting others, albeit experienced professionals, take care of his medication. It was also scary for him, but he was willing to take on this challenge and adventure.

During the TACKERS week, we saw our child open his wings and FLY! He grew in self-confidence and enjoyed every single moment. He realized that there were other kids living with a transplant and living a completely normal life like non- transplanted kids or as near as they could.

TACKERS also promotes a healthy lifestyle, motivating the kids to do sport and to challenge their limits. For our son it was his very first time on skis. He is now hooked! Winning a medal - and everyone wins at TACKERS - was also an incredible moment for him.

TACKERS were also a life changing experience for us as parents. Seeing our child, the only child from Portugal amongst some 45 children from 15 countries, integrated in camp and facing up to new challenges as well as being able to exchange experiences with other
parents from around the globe did us a world of good. It was also a joy to see young adult transplant recipients that had once attended TACKERS as campers, participating as volunteers. They are such great role models for the new TACKERS campers.

TACKERS was not just a pleasant week in the Alps, we brought home a stronger, self-confident son and we, as parents, felt more confident and stronger for having attended. It was a life-changing experience for us that we would highly recommend to all.

Ligia and Vitor Martins
Portugal