

## Familiar faces, both masters, top awards at the popular Communities Against Crime

By Fiona Green



The 27th annual Communities Against Crime 5K in Arlington always attracts a large crowd and this year was no exception.

The event on Saturday (Aug. 27) was hosted by the police departments of Arlington, Bedford, Benbrook, Euless, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Hurst, Mansfield, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Southlake, Tarrant County College, UTA, and the Tarrant County's Sheriff's Office. Proceeds went to

Community Partners of Tarrant County (CPTC).

CPTC is a non-profit, on-site, charitable organization benefiting abused and neglected children served by Child Protective Services. The organization helps to meet the special needs of children in foster care, strengthens families by providing emergency basic needs, and helps prevent child abuse and neglect.

There were some familiar faces in the winner's circle with top honors going to Magaly Soto of Arlington and Agustin Hernandez of Irving (pictured above left). Soto, who recently turned 40 and became a Masters runner, easily outran the females, finishing in a speedy 19:14, while Hernandez, also a Masters runner, clocked a 17:21.

Hernandez, 45, said this was not a great time for him but mentioned he had run a 16-mile workout the previous day at a sub 7-minute pace and that this might have been a factor. In the women's 66-70-year age group, Poksu Binger gave yet another impressive performance, covering the course in 23:38. Binger took the Senior Masters award. The next finisher in her age group clocked 35:22.



The 60-64 age category was won by Janice Beckcom of Fort Worth (pictured left), who covered the course in 31:41, more than 12 minutes ahead of Gina Caldwell of Colleyville.

Beckcom has not always been a runner. She took up the sport nine years ago after her husband Ed, a life-long runner, encouraged her to give running and racing a try. In her first race, the Run To Joe's, she not only managed to run the whole distance without stopping but even placed in her age group. After that she was hooked.

A retired police officer with 38 years of service under her belt, Beckcom always has led an active lifestyle. In addition to running and cycling, she keeps in shape through belly

dancing and teaches this to seniors at the Tarrant County College NW Campus. For many of her clients, who range in age from 55-92, her class is the highlight of their week. They look forward to the opportunity to dress up and perform either for themselves or at senior centers or nursing homes. The group also has performed at Mayfest and the Texas State Fair on Senior Day.

To see Beckcom in action or for more information on her belly dancing classes please visit her Facebook page.