

Reprinted from

HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL

September 25, 2006

2006

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Donald F. Cariati Jr.

Age: 31

Title: President and owner

Company: Cariati Developers

Company location: Meriden

Residence: Meriden

Career highlights:

I own a real estate development company that specializes in commercial and residential real estate, excavating, snow and ice management. In high school I wanted to purchase a car. I didn't have any money and my parents believed in a strong work ethic so I bought an inexpensive truck with a plow and I started from there. I did driveways for the first year then got a commercial account. I truly found a love for the business and it grew to employ more than 50 people. In 1995 I expanded it into building residential communities and heavy excavation.

Community involvement:

I believe in giving back to my community. I think it is important for local Meriden business owners to cultivate the community by investing in its people and organizations. Some of my involvement includes Cevitan Club volunteering and sponsorship, Meriden



Girls and Boys Club basketball team, soap-box derby car, midget racecar for children, and sponsorship of the Platt High School football program.

Biggest success:

I have had many milestones on my path to owning a successful business such as the first acquisition of large contracts. I also attribute success in the growth of my operation from one piece of equipment to over 50. My latest success was a purchase of an 18,000 square foot building for the new location of my business.

Dream job:

I would like to be the star in my own reality television show. I meet interesting people in the community.

Businessperson he most admires and why:

My mother Anita is the businesswoman whom I admire the most in my life. She started her own business, New England Insulated Wire, out of her home in 1975. The business later grew to have more than 150 employees. In 1995, she turned her focus to the real estate industry and purchased and developed commercial and residential properties nationwide. My mother has always maintained an excellent balance between her work and her personal life. ■

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