

Peter built



/Staff Photographer

Award-winning builder Peter Fusaro, center, is joined by Cori Lantz, left, and HBRA president Mary Boudreau.

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Fairfield County (HBRA) recently announced the 2009 winners of its prestigious HBRA Awards for outstanding achievement in the local home building industry. Among the honorees was Greenwich builder Peter Fusaro, who was recognized as Philanthropist of the Year (Builder). Fusaro earned the honor for using his own money and time to build a ramp and install an elevator for 18-year old Cori Lantz. Cori, formerly of Greenwich and who now lives in Stamford, was paralyzed in a catastrophic multi-vehicle accident in Greenwich in 2008 after practicing ice skating. Cori and her mom had to move from Greenwich into a smaller home because her medical bills were overwhelming, and that's when Peter stepped in to make her new home wheelchair accessible.

The awards were presented at a Gala celebration in December at the Greenwich Hyatt. Fusaro is the founder and president of Preferred Builders Inc. and vice president of Green Built Connecticut.