

Stephen Jessup, Founding Principal, The Jessup Group

Steve Jessup is founding principal of The Jessup Group, a Battle-Creek based public accounting firm that also specializes in health care financial consulting across the nation.

Traveling to New York City several days each week for the past ten years for health care consulting “is no big deal” for Steve, who talks about how the Internet, related technology and travel options “now connect people, problem-solving, planning and the world.”

In addition to his public accounting business, Jessup has been a high tech entrepreneur and urban development pioneer in Battle Creek. He and several other investors transformed a long abandoned but historic Sullivan Dairy Barn near downtown Battle Creek into a state-of-the-art technology incubation center that today is home for 10 businesses, including 8 that are high technology and Internet oriented. One of these is Great Lakes Microsystems, which Steve and his partners have also developed into a sophisticated, successful health care financial planning and information business that today has more than 40 home health care agencies as clients nationwide.

“Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) has been very supportive and encouraging of our efforts to develop a technology affinity zone in the Sullivan Dairy Barn complex. BCU helped us locate the property (in a Renaissance Zone), get other people involved and encouraged the City and CTS Telephone to run a fiber optic ring, providing very high speed broadband, through the property,” he said.

Jessup thinks Battle Creek is a good place to do business and for making dreams come true. “We have a competitive marketplace, good labor skills, and an excellent support network for commerce. There’s also a lot of talent here and a belief that we can work together to innovate, to get things done.”