

## **Bridging the Gap Between Shanghai, China And The Western U.S.: International Entrepreneurs Put Down Roots in the Flathead Valley**

from Steve Anderson of Artisans Doors

Five years ago, my wife, Lei, and I were traveling around the Northwest in search of a new and more enriching place to settle for our US home base. We had spent the past six years living part-time in Arizona and really wanted a change that was conducive to owning / running businesses, starting and raising a young family and living in a diverse, vibrant locale. We had a lot of criteria and at the end of the day the Flathead Valley made our short list and started our due diligence and business searches.

We have a home in Shanghai, China and live there part of the year where we own two businesses and needed to find the right location for us to invest, develop and grow both local and international businesses.

In 2002, we made the decision and invested in two local businesses and founded a third while moving our home to the Valley. Over the three years that we've been here, I can't say enough about the people and quality of life that we have experienced. For us it has been a great decision, and thanks to people like Liz Harris and the entire Jobs Now team we have been able to develop and grow our businesses and build a base from which to launch an exciting new opportunity bridging the culture gap between China and the Western USA.

Montana and the Flathead are not for everyone. Our true pioneer spirit breeds and feeds entrepreneurs with a very "I can and will do it myself" approach to business and life. You need to be ready to plunge in and take it on with the best of us. But it truly is one of the last best places on this earth for the explorers and hardy stock that founded this great nation and state.

Our transportation by road, rail and air is as good as anywhere else in the country. Our education with our local two-year college provides a very good pool of young, energetic, skilled partners for the right type of businesses. Our four-year and graduate universities located only a few hours away feed us the professionals we need in most disciplines to develop and establish the right models for the future. Our infrastructure holds up well in every area of service against all the other small/medium growth areas of the country.

The bottom line is that we are a place for you to consider as you look for the right place to be for your future. Give any of us a call and you will get the true Montana greeting: "Hey, welcome. How can we help you and what are your plans?" I promise that you will get a straight honest answer to all of your questions as you compare the Flathead and Montana to the many other options that are available.

See you in the Flathead!  
Steve and Lei Anderson