

May 2026

Reflections

KICKING OFF OUR TEAM SPOTLIGHT SERIES, we're excited to introduce the dedicated individuals behind our Adventist Retirement SHARP Team—serving with excellence and making a meaningful impact every day.

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THIS MONTH:
May 27

NEXT MONTH:
June 26

Meet Your SHARP Team— Here for You

SHARP is the healthcare side of Adventist Retirement—and for many of you, it's a familiar and important part of this season of life. Behind every enrollment form, every phone call, and every question answered, there is a small but deeply committed team who considers it a privilege to serve you.

If you were to ask any of us what we love most about SHARP, the answer would be the same: it's you.

On good days and on challenging days, we are grateful for the retirees we serve. Sometimes our work involves explaining benefits or resolving concerns. Other times, it means listening to frustrations, talking through family situations, or even sharing a prayer together. There have been tears, heartfelt conversations, and treasured cards of appreciation that we keep close to our hearts. Serving you is more than a job—it's a ministry.

Let us introduce ourselves.

GAYLE FELL has been serving behind the scenes at Adventist Retirement since 2008, after joining us from Adventist Risk Management. She comes from a long line



Gayle Fell with her son Regan (left), and husband Jim.



of Seventh-day Adventist workers and carries that legacy of service with her every day.

Gayle’s favorite part of her work is talking with retirees and discovering shared connections—whether through former places of service, schools, or mutual friends. Over the years, she has been a teacher, registrar for the Andrews University Seminary, a pastor’s wife, and an insurance professional. Originally from California, Gayle is the proud mother of one son and grandmother of one grandson. She enjoys studying theology and going for walks. Gayle currently serves retirees whose last names begin with A through L.

Gayle shares this meaningful memory:

“I started working for SHARP in 2008 in the GC building. Not long after, I heard someone speaking with our administrators, Del Johnson and Lyn Wick, outside their offices. Since my office was nearby, I heard his name—Roger Dudley—and I jumped up, ran out, and hugged him! Del and Lyn looked at me as if to say, ‘What did we hire?!’ Then Roger asked if I was Elder Lockwood’s daughter. When I said yes, he hugged me back.

After visiting with Del and Lyn, Roger came to my office, and we had a wonderful time catching up. Roger and his pregnant wife had come to be



Gayle Fell in the 1950s (right), with her parents Harriet and W. P. Lockwood (center) and her brothers.

interns of my dad (Elder W. P. Lockwood) in the mid-1950s in Roanoke, Virginia, for summer evangelistic meetings. Roger helped pitch the tent but didn’t know how to use a hammer—he was incredibly smart but not used to manual labor! He later became a Seminary professor.

Not long ago, I had to enter his death in our system, and I was filled with memories again. I sent a sympathy card to his daughter, Cheryl, who said she cried reading those memories and would keep the card forever.”

BONNIE BENSINK has been with Adventist Retirement since 2017 and joined the SHARP team in 2019, also coming from Adventist Risk Management. Bonnie has a remarkable eye for detail—she can spot an issue from a mile away—and she brings a genuine heart for service to everything she does. Bonnie also is a natural caretaker and giver. Her generosity is well known throughout our department, and if you stop in sometime, she’s the source of our enormous candy jar by the door! She is the mother of one adult daughter and serves retirees with last names M through Z.

ANASTASIA ELLIOTT joined the SHARP team in January 2025, bringing strong organizational skills shaped in part by years of homeschooling her five children. Originally from Russia, she moved to the United States in 2000 and has been very active in her local church, especially in health ministries. Anastasia transitioned to other opportunities in March 2026, and we remain grateful for the time she served with us and wish her God’s richest blessings in her next chapter.

LISA SHARPE began her journey with Adventist Retirement in February 2011 as a benefits processor—a role she still describes as one of her all-time favorite jobs. She joined the healthcare team in 2013 and now serves as SHARP Manager and Assistant Administrator.

Originally from New Orleans, Lisa has a love for beignets and vegetarian gumbo. She and

her husband have two children and two cats. In her spare time, she enjoys quilting and making Christmas ornaments. You can check out her creations at https://www.instagram.com/lisa_sharpe3/.



Lisa Sharpe (center), with her husband Kent (far left), and their children.

One of Lisa’s most meaningful memories is her work friendship with retirees Don and Teresa Sales. After Teresa’s passing in 2019, the connection that began with phone calls grew into prayers and cards—a reminder of how special these relationships can become.

Lastly, Lisa sends a shout out to **Marian Allen Bearden**, who was her teacher in a one-room school in Minden, Louisiana, from 7th–9th grades. She was the “influencer” of the day that brought Lisa into the church.

LISA TURPEN serves as Associate Administrator for both SHARP and the Defined Benefits team and has been with Adventist Retirement since 2010. Lisa’s nursing background has been a blessing to her service here in SHARP. Her greatest joy is her children and two grandchildren. She enjoys reading, sewing, spending time with loved ones, and mentoring the teams she leads. Lisa is also an avid Dallas Cowboys fan!



Lisa Sharpe, attending CEBS training in September 2025.



Lisa Turpen (top right), with her son Kenny (far left), daughter-in-law Lauren, and grandkids Nolan and Molly.

On any given day, you’ll find the SHARP team answering your calls, responding to emails, and reaching out to new retirees as they begin their healthcare enrollment journey. We know that navigating healthcare can sometimes feel overwhelming—but you are never doing it alone.

It is truly an honor to walk alongside you in this life journey. ■



Adventist Retirement

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