

BY BETH VINSON

s you step into Gary Duff's apartment, you might feel as if you're stepping into a University of Kansas football shrine rather than someone's home. From the KU sign on the front door to the football photos and plaques placed eloquently around the apartment to an old football sitting on a shelf surrounded by KU memorabilia, you can't help but notice the pride and love that Duff has for his alma mater.

Duff played football for KU from 1962 to 1964 and held a school record for kicking 50 consecutive points after touchdown until it was broken in 2009. Duff, who played multiple positions, was also photographed for *Sports Illustrated* magazine in 1964.



live independently while giving him access to help 24 hours a day. Since enrolling in the Lifeline program in August 2007, he has used the emergency response service 92 times because of falling and being unable to get up.

ONLY A CALL AWAY

Duff pushes the personal help button, which is always around his neck or wrist, when he needs help and is instantly connected to a highly trained personal response associate who assesses his situation. The associate determines whether Duff requires a visit from a neighbor or family member and can contact them for him. If he needs emergency services, the associate can dispatch assistance and retrieve medical information from his profile, all while he's on the line.

RAPID RESPONSE

Since Duff lives in Drury Place apartments, the office at the complex is his first Lifeline responder. Without Lifeline, if Duff fell and was unable to reach a phone, he could be forced to lie there until someone happened to stop by.

In an emergency, delayed medical care can jeopardize a person's recovery. For those living alone, it could be a long time before someone realizes help is needed. Having access to help at the push of a button reduces these risks.

ENJOYING INDEPENDENCE

"If I hadn't had the stroke, I would probably be skydiving or bungee jumping today," Duff laughs. "But Lifeline lets me be more active and independent than I would be without it, so I am so thankful for this service."

Nadine Cox, director of Lifeline Services, says test calls are conducted monthly to ensure equipment is working properly and everything is OK.

"Lifeline helps our customers maintain their independence but also gives their families peace of mind," she says.

The fee for Lifeline is \$35 or \$40 per month depending on the communication unit selected, with a \$49 one-time installation fee.

YOUR LIFELINE OPTIONS

SELECT A PERSONAL HELP BUTTON

Choose either the pendant or wrist button.

SELECT A COMMUNICATOR

Choose either the CarePartner Basic Unit or Telephone based on which one best meets your needs.

- + CarePartner Basic Unit: Working with your existing telephone, this unit offers all the benefits of 24-hour medical alert service, along with two-way voice communication.
- + CarePartner Telephone: This seniorfriendly unit is both a telephone and a twoway communicator with enhanced features, including a high-volume speaker, handset and ringer control as well as the ability to record medication and appointment reminders to help you stay on schedule.

TWO CONVENIENT **CHOICES**

Select one of two units and pay only a low monthly rate after a \$49 installation fee.



ADJUSTING TO A NEW LIFE

It's no surprise that a 67-year-old man used to knocking people to the ground may have trouble accepting the fact that he is the one getting knocked down now—not on the field—but rather in his own apartment. Duff suffered a severe stroke in 2002 followed by two mini-strokes in 2008 and since then has had to learn to adjust to a less adventurous lifestyle than he once knew. Although no longer able to ride broncos and bulls, it takes more than a stroke to keep Gary Duff down.

Salina Regional Health Center's Lifeline personal emergency response service is helping Duff