



Where the Rope Ends, a film to be released in 2023, documents the story of Nichole Doane's fall while canyoneering at Wallace Falls and her life saving rescue by SCVSAR. One of the goals of the film is to raise funds and awareness for Search and Rescue. Learn more at [www.wheretheropeends.com](http://www.wheretheropeends.com) or @wheretheropeends.



November 2022

**Dear Friends of Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue,**

Below are the words from Nichole Doane, as she reflects on her life saving rescue by SCVSAR:

“Imagine being in the prime of your life, a time when waking up in the morning does not involve pain, fear, or limitation, a time when an unabandoned drive to become who we are meant to be overshadows every single decision and pushes us to define the boundaries of our own personal strengths and limitations. It’s a finite period, lasting only a decade or two if we’re lucky, in which we forge ahead bravely, and possibly naively, determined to make the most of this journey we call life.

Now imagine being in the prime of your life, surrounded by friends and mentors, learning a new skill set intended to broaden your boundaries and open your life up to new possibilities. You’ve practiced; you’ve trained; you’re prepared for the journey. Today is the day. You now find yourself on the most magical adventure, rappelling down waterfalls on a beautiful sunny day. Your training has prepared you well and the joy of this moment, the elation found in the preparation and pushing past fears and limitations to get to this moment leaves you giddy and full of life.

Now imagine being in the prime of your life and suddenly finding yourself gripping desperately to a rope as you slip toward a 60-foot fall. So much more life to live, so much more love to give, so much more...

The landing somehow does not end your life, but now you find yourself halfway down a 265-foot waterfall in the middle of a dense, wild forest, clinging to the dream of what your life might have been. Only if, only if...

What would you give to have not made that mistake? What would you give to live through this? What would you give?

Now imagine your broken body sprawled out across boulders and tree branches, struggling to stay conscious, fighting to take in air, when you hear the sound of a helicopter overhead. Imagine the whirl of the wind as the helicopter approaches, the spray of the mist off the waterfall, the rainbows reflected off the water, the heroes rappelling out of the helicopter to reach you, the first dose of pain medicine, the kindness and compassion in their eyes as they systematically lift your broken body 100 feet up and safely into the helicopter to save your life. What would you give?

What is my life path post rescue? Who am I now? Who was this silly girl who went into the woods to find herself and floundered? Who I was then was a self-focused life traveler intent on making the most of my life. Who I am now is a woman who deeply understands that this is not a solo journey. We are all in this together, and the path toward success is only found through helping one another along the way.

My life now is forever intertwined with the brave, self-sacrificing, well-trained volunteers of this magnificent organization. I know I owe a debt that can never be repaid. I can only give a lifetime of dedication to the men and women who risked their lives to save my own. I can only give my most valued possession, my time.”

### **What would be your response if your life were saved, or the life of a loved one?**

Many who love the outdoors can financially support those who will drop everything they are doing to help others in need. Someday, the mission could very well be for you or for someone that you love, as it was for Nichole, and as it was for our own family when our son and his friends were rescued by SCVSAR.

**It is your donations that power this 100% volunteer, non-profit organization to save lives.** We need your help.

**Right now, we humbly ask that you give what you can to help us continue to be there for anyone whose day outside goes terribly wrong.** In a time when so many need help, please choose to make a difference by joining our SCVSAR supporters. Our supporters and volunteers are a team that makes real our motto “that others may live.”

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to SCVSAR ([www.scvsar.org/donate](http://www.scvsar.org/donate)), this year, and consider donating every year. Know that your dollars are going to a great cause; know that your funds would be carefully and thoughtfully allocated to where they are most needed; and know that you are making a tremendous difference. Thank You Very Much.

Sincerely,



Heidi McKeon  
Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue President

PS- Stay tuned for the upcoming release of *Where the Rope Ends* (Formerly known as *Be Like Water*), a full-length documentary about Nichole’s accident and recovery, highlighting SCVSAR’s life-saving rescue mission. Learn more at [www.wheretheropeends.com](http://www.wheretheropeends.com) or [@wheretheropeends](https://twitter.com/wheretheropeends).



### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE**

5506 Old Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290 | [info@scvsar.org](mailto:info@scvsar.org) | [scvsar.org](http://scvsar.org)

To change your mail preferences, contact [info@scvsar.org](mailto:info@scvsar.org)