

PN man visits prisoners

By Amy Moore
The News staff writer

PORT NECHES — Although he's never been behind the gray steel bars of a prison, Bob Frazier wants to make sure those already there don't lose touch with the outside world.

Frazier, a Port Neches resident, is a member of PVS, Prisoner Visitation and Support, a national program whose members visit local prisons to chat with prisoners.

"It gives you a good feeling about yourself and a different perspective on the prisoners," Frazier said. "You meet people from all over the world when you visit the federal prisons, I met someone from Africa who was a diplomat there."

Having been involved in the program for about eight years, Frazier said he was recruited by a church pastor and recently got his wife involved as well.

"We are considered an alternative program because we go for our own religious reasons but not to proselyte, or sell our religions" he said. "We just go to visit and be normal human beings."

The local PVS consists of eight people who visit three local prisons once a month for about an hour. Each member sees four prisoners until they get released or are transferred. Frazier has seen the same prisoner for seven years now and said he never feels in danger when visiting the prisons.



Giuseppe Barranco/The News

Friends of inmates, Doneane and Bob Frazier dedicate themselves to easing the burden of prison life by visiting incarcerated people at the federal prison.

"There are lots of restrictions because of security," he commented, "and we go to a yearly, intensive three day training. Last October we went to Kansas City and before that we went to Colorado and visited the ADX, a super maximum

prison."

The members of PVS in Frazier's group are mostly female and none speak Spanish, though many prisoners in the are don't speak English.

"These prisoners need role models," Frazier said.

For information about the PVS program in Federal prisons call Dr. Bob Frazier at 722-0303, or write to P. O. Box 484 Port Neches, TX 77651 and include your name and address. Thirty minute presentations to groups can be arranged.