



## Mr. Bennett Grey Persons

August 10, 2000 - September 5, 2021

Bennett Grey Persons, a loving son and brother, loyal friend, and passionate human rights advocate, passed away suddenly on September 5, 2021. He was 21 years old. While his life was brief, Ben lived it fully – openly and bravely. He cared deeply for his family and friends. He also championed fiercely for others and promoted acceptance, compassion, equity, and inclusion across his Philadelphia and Baltimore communities.

He was born August 10, 2000, in Baltimore, MD. He spent his early years at Greenspring Montessori School. Ben also attended Roland Park Elementary Middle School and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, participating in the Ingenuity Project at both schools.

As a high school junior, he became a student at Friends School of Baltimore. During his two years there, he was active in Diversity and Social Justice Practitioners and the Creative Writing club, served as a Peer Educator, and made life-long connections. He represented the school at the 2017 national Student Diversity Leadership Conference. His proudest accomplishment at Friends School was participating in a research and social action project that provided a foundation for the school's new healthy relationships curriculum. He and his fellow classmates presented their work at the AIMS Sexuality Education Symposium addressing educators from across the state. He was a graduate of the Class of 2018.

Ben continued his education at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA, further fueled by his passion for advocacy and social justice. He was in his third year at Drexel, where he was majoring in Psychology and had served as Treasurer for the Queer Student Union. Beyond campus, Ben volunteered at Philly AIDS Thrift.

Ben loved music and attending live performances, as well as running, hiking, biking, and water sports. He was admired for his creativity, fashion, style, and wit. To know Ben was to love Ben.

Ben is survived by his parents, Ellen (Crapser) and D. Drew Persons of Baltimore, MD; siblings V. Brynn Persons of Harrisonburg, VA, and Sean D. Persons of Baltimore; grandparents Virginia (Brooks) and Edgar Grey (Ted) Persons, Jr. also of Baltimore; late grandparents Phyllis H. (Ross) and Theodore L. Crapser of Waynesboro, VA; aunt Heather C. Hegg of Savannah, GA; uncle James G. Persons Sr. (Debra) of Norfolk, VA; and cousins Connor H. and Jodis M. Hegg (Pittsburgh, PA and New Orleans, LA, respectively), and James G. Persons Jr. (Roanoke, VA).

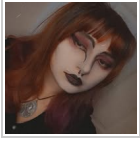
In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Ben's name. A few organizations that were close to his heart: The Attic Youth Center, Mazzoni Center, Mutual Aid Philly.

An event to celebrate Ben's life and legacy is being planned in Baltimore for late fall.

Remember, you are never alone. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for confidential support 24/7; or The Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741 to connect confidentially with a trained counselor 24/7.



# Tribute Wall



“ *I miss you, Ben. Bennett was my first ever boyfriend, my first kiss, and a best friend of many years. The amount of love I felt for him throughout his life was indescribable, and I wish I could've kept in better contact with him. Wherever you are, you're kicking ass, serving looks, and making great jokes. Thanks for being a light.*



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**Ellie Sandhaus** - October 20, 2021 at 02:31 PM

FF

“ *Dear Ellen and Drew,*

*I was saddened to hear of Bennett's passing. He was such a nice kid. Always so kind and interesting. I followed him on instagram and admired his spirit. The world lost a good one.*

*Fred Furney*

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**Fred Furney** - September 20, 2021 at 02:20 PM

LM

“ Dear Ellen and Drew:  
We are so sad to hear of Bennett's passing. He had a gentle spirit and a sweet smile. We will always remember him joining our backyard fire pit and the subsequent conversations. He was thoughtful and intelligent. Surely the world is a little dimmer without his presence.

*Sending love and healing to you and your family.*

*Leslie, Lisa, Sarah and Sophia Hardesty-Meteyer*

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**Lisa Meteyer** - September 19, 2021 at 06:40 PM

SB

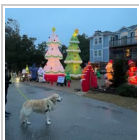
“ Ellen and Drew,

*Our deepest sympathies to you and all of Ben's family and friends. Laura always spoke of him with love and laughter in her voice. He will be missed so much.*

*Susan and Bill Breidenstine*

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**Susan Breidenstine** - September 14, 2021 at 03:18 PM

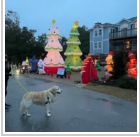


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**Drew Persons** - September 14, 2021 at 02:07 PM



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**Drew Persons** - September 14, 2021 at 02:06 PM



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**Drew Persons** - September 14, 2021 at 02:04 PM



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**Drew** - September 14, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ *Bennett was the kindest soul to all that came in his path. He used to take care of our dog McGregor as if he was his own and was known to be the instigator of summer evening games with my kids and his siblings. The world is now missing a bright young man who touched the heart of those who were lucky enough to know him. He lives in our hearts forever. ❤️💔*

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**Kiernan Prechtl-Schindler** - September 14, 2021 at 10:09 AM

LW

*Dear Drew, Ellen, Brynn and Sean,  
We want you to know deeply sad we are of Bennett's passing. We only met him several times but felt his energy for life. He was very kind, caring and funny. We were looking forward to getting to know him better. The obituary was a beautiful summary of his well lived life. It helped us know him better. He will always be in your hearts.  
Blessing,  
Jerry and Louise*

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**louise worley** - September 15, 2021 at 01:43 PM

JE

*Dear Ellen and family,  
I am so sorry. I didn't know Bennett, although Jack shared with me some really lovely things about him. But I do know you from SEED and the way you showed up for the Bogusky family. Its the hardest and saddest thing a parent should never experience. He seemed like a wonderful young man and you are a wonderful mother. Sending you love today and always.  
Jenny Barrett*

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**Jenny** - December 11, 2021 at 02:52 PM