

**East5ide Unified|Unido is a community-driven effort to ensure all children in five Northeast Denver neighborhoods are valued, healthy & thriving by leveling the playing field before they start school.**

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Clayton ● Cole ● Five Points ● Skyland/North City Park ● Whittier

**F.A.M.I.L.Y. - Fathers And Men Investing in the Lives of Youth**

Meets 3rd Tuesday of Every Month from 6-8 pm

(Locations on back of page)

We know it takes a village to raise a healthy child - but our villages cannot be healthy or whole if men are not able to be fully present and engaged in their families and communities.

F.A.M.I.L.Y. (Fathers And Men Investing in the Lives of Youth) is an effort to strengthen connections and coordinate efforts to achieve male and father engagement, systems change, paradigm transformation and ultimately, fatherFULL communities.

We recognize, and most deeply value, that there are many men who ARE involved and engaged with their children, and need them as a part of this effort to use your two hands, 1 for a child close to you without a father and 1 for a friend who with just a little support and resources could be more engaged. It will take all of us to ensure all mothers, families, and children have strong men engaged! We use peer support and experts for the balance for all men to be; man, father, and contributor to family advancement.

Father absence has many causes - both emotional and systemic. East5ide Unified|Unido is working to address root causes of many obstacles - crucial to building a thriving 80205 community.

**Questions? Contact 303-731-6853 or** **earlychildhood@civiccanopy.org**

**Visit our website at** [**www.east5ideunified.org**](http://www.east5ideunified.org) **to learn more about how we are building a vision of a healthy, valued, and thriving 80205.**

**More About F.A.M.I.L.Y.**

We know children thrive in a variety of family environments and parental arrangements. Yet, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 1 out of every 4 children in America live apart from their biological fathers, and that rate is higher for African American and Latino children.[[1]](#footnote-1) We are in the midst of a fatherhood crisis – a crisis which is amplifies many problems we face as a society.

More than 1 in 3 single-mother families lived in poverty in 2015, and the poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 36.5 percent, compared to 22.1 percent for male-headed families with children and 7.5 percent of families with children headed by married couples.[[2]](#footnote-2) In the U.S., 30 percent of single-mother homes are food insecure[[3]](#footnote-3). In Colorado, the cost of child care in a center for two children is nearly 2.5 times higher than the annual cost of college tuition at a four year college[[4]](#footnote-4). All of these factors leave less resources for higher education, savings, investments, recreational activity and other opportunities to improve the quality of life for children and their families.

It is not equitable for women to shoulder the primary responsibilities of parenting alone. Nor is it equitable for invested fathers to be denied the opportunity to be involved in the lives of their children.

F.A.M.I.L.Y is working to build a movement of Men and Fathers across every situation and circumstance. Married, non-biological, single, divorced, with or without custody, involved or not. In support of our tribe and in difiance of the personal & systemic challenges which create the seperations that contribute to the crisis. We are building that movement by the power of 10. We are helping each man who comes to our network to invite just 10 other men. By this power of 10 we will be able to respond to a host of matters with numbers.

**Come Join F.A.M.I.L.Y the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm 5:30 Dinner**

* August 15 @ St. Charles Rec (3777 Lafayette St., Denver, CO 80205)
* September 19 @ Epworth United Methodist 3401 High St. Denver, 80205
* October 17 @ Epworth United Methodist
* November 21 @ St. Charles
* December 19 @ Epworth United Methodist

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1. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-192.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://nwlc.org/resources/national-snapshot-poverty-among-women-families-2015/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/hunger-and-poverty/hunger-and-poverty-fact-sheet.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/research/costofcare/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)