

Gund pledges \$50 million for blindness research

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Businessman and philanthropist Gordon Gund is pledging \$50 million in matching donations as part of an effort to restore vision for some blind people.

Gund is chairman of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, based in Columbia, Maryland. The 74-year-old former owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers lost his sight to a degenerative retinal disease at age 30.

On Saturday, the foundation announced that Gund will match \$50 million or more in contributions to fund research to cure retinal diseases that cause blindness. The goal is to raise \$100 million total by 2020.

Gund says the foundation has already made significant advances toward its [goal](#) and that the funding will help maintain its momentum. Research from the foundation helped lead to the commercial launch of the first "bionic retina."

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